VENOM
COSTA • MOORE • SANDOVAL
"This is everything I wanted in a return for the original Venom."
– SuperiorSpiderTalk.com
THE LAND BEFORE CRIME
MARVEL

VENOM

CONTEMPLATING SUICIDE AFTER HIS LIFE FELL APART, DISGRACED REPORTER **EDDIE BROCK** SOUGHT FORGIVENESS AT THE SAME CHURCH WHERE SPIDER-MAN WAS REJECTING A LIVING, ALIEN COSTUME CALLED A **SYMBIOTE**. SENSING BROCK'S MISERY, THE SYMBIOTE BONDED WITH HIM AND IMBUED HIM WITH POWERS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.

FOR A TIME, EDDIE TRIED TO BE A HERO. HOWEVER, HIS VIOLENT METHODS OFTEN PUT HIM AT ODDS WITH HEROES AND VILLAINS ALIKE. EVENTUALLY, EDDIE AND THE SYMBIOTE WERE SEPARATED, AND, FOR A TIME, THEY WENT THEIR SEPARATE WAYS.

THEY WERE HAPPY LIVING SEPARATELY.
BUT WHEN FATE OFFERED THEM THE CHANCE TO REUNITE,
THEY FOUND THEMSELVES UNABLE TO RESIST.

VENOM

150

HEART OF DARKNESS

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DEPENDENCE DAY

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MALLED!

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151-153: THE LAND BEFORE CRIME

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MARVEL
VENOM
RATED T+
MARVEL.COM
150
DIRECT EDITION
AN OVERSIZED
150TH
ISSUE
SPECTACULAR!
COSTA
MOORE
SOBREIRO
& MORE!

"It had whispered to him things about himself which he did not know...and the whisper had proved irresistibly fascinating. It echoed loudly within him because he was hollow at the core.

"It was written that I should be loyal to the nightmare of my choice."

-Joseph Conrad, Heart of Darkness.

SHHHH.

HE'S SLEEPING.

THERE WAS A TIME IN MY LIFE WHEN I THOUGHT I HAD EVERYTHING.

A WIFE, THE RESPECT OF MY PEERS, PRESTIGE IN MY FIELD.

THE DAILY GLO

SIN-EATER

IDENTITY REVEALED!!!

BY EDDIE BROCK

BUT RESPECT, PRESTIGE, FAME? THOSE THINGS ARE ILLUSORY.

AND THOSE PEOPLE WHO ONLY WANT YOU FOR ***THOSE*** THINGS DON'T REALLY WANT ***YOU*** AT ALL.

I WAS SO WEAK BACK THEN. SO READY TO ***BREAK***. I WAS ***HOLLOW***.

BUT THAT WAS WHEN WE ***FOUND*** EACH OTHER.

WHEN I BECAME ***WHOLE***.

THERE ARE ALWAYS PEOPLE WHO WILL SEEK TO ***DESTROY*** YOUR HAPPINESS. PEOPLE YOU MUST ***FIGHT***.

I PROMISED MYSELF I WOULD NEVER BE WEAK AGAIN.

I'LL ADMIT...THERE WAS A TIME WHEN WE WERE ***SEPARATED*** THAT I WANTED TO GIVE UP. I THOUGHT I WOULD ***DIE***.

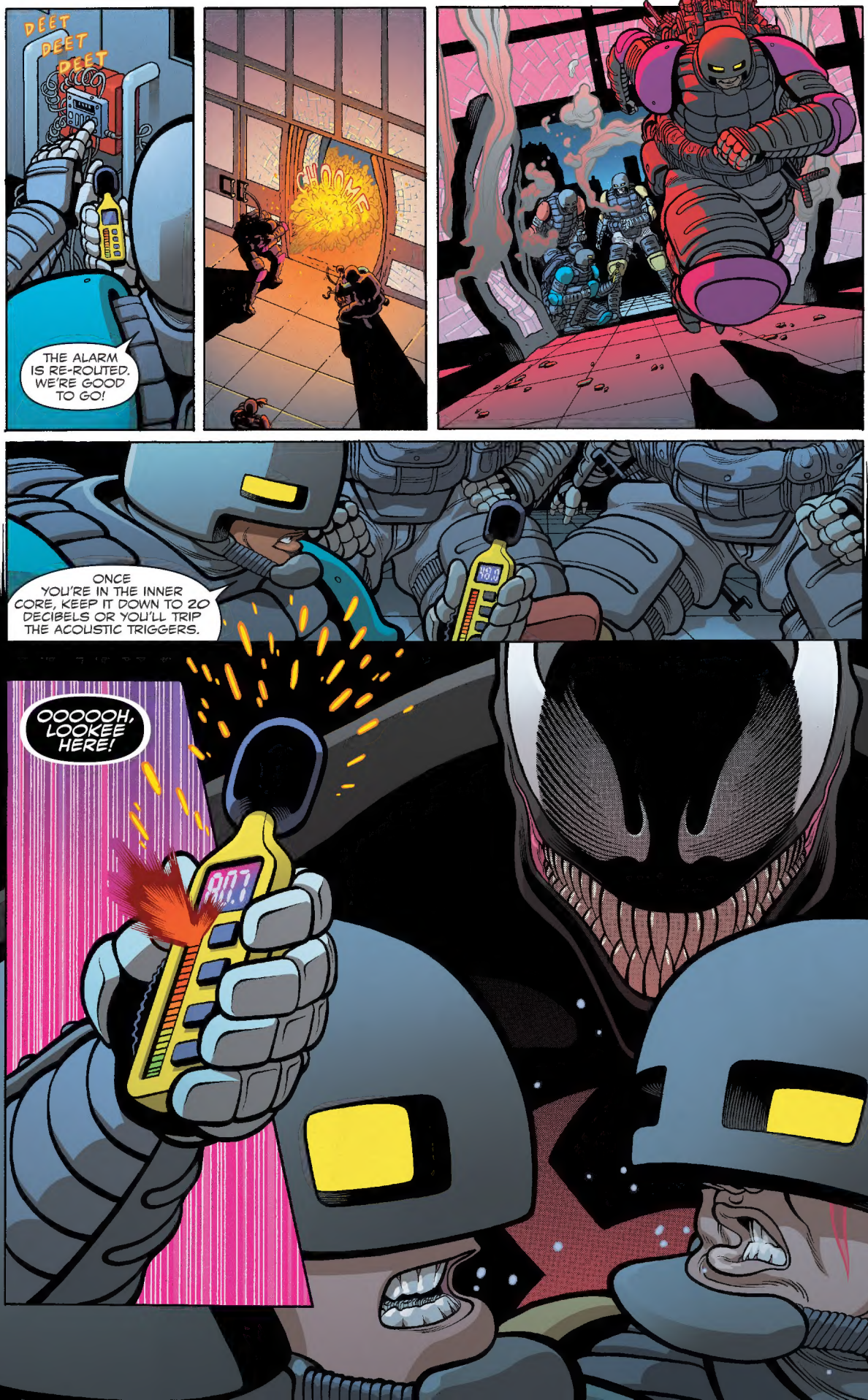
THE THING ABOUT LOVE IS THAT IT'S NOT ***GENTLE*** OR ***SOFT***. NOT AT ALL.

LOVE IS ***STRENGTH***, AND FULL OF TERRIBLE ***PURPOSE***. LOVE IS POWER, AND IT WILL ***NEVER*** BE DONE WITH YOU.

IT ***CONSUMES*** YOU.

GAH!
EDDDDDIIIEEEE...
EDDDDDIIIEEEE...
LET'S GO OUT, EDDIE.
DRINK THE MOONLIGHT.
LET'S GO OUT.
OKAY.
OKAY...

EDDIE! LOOK!
LOOKS LIKE A BREAK-IN.
STOP THEM. WE HAVE TO STOP THEM!

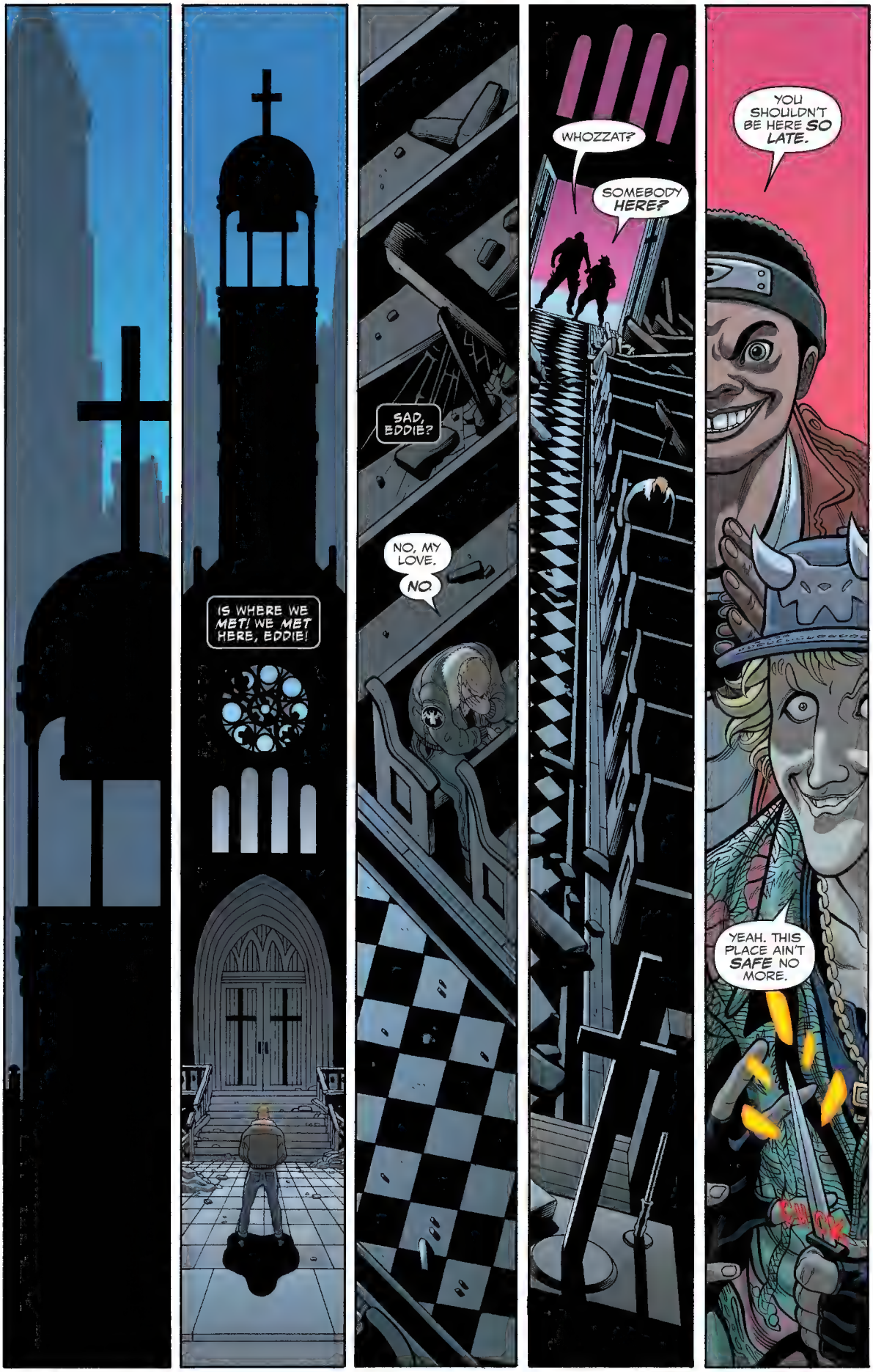

DEET
DEET
DEET
THE ALARM IS RE-ROUTED. WE'RE GOOD TO GO!
KHOOM
ONCE YOU'RE IN THE INNER CORE, KEEP IT DOWN TO 20 DECIBELS OR YOU'LL TRIP THE ACOUSTIC TRIGGERS.
OOOOOH, LOOKEE HERE!

TASERS UP! TASERS UP!
&#@% THAT! I'M OUTTA HERE!
HAAA! TICKLES!
THIS IS A BIOTECH FIRM. WHAT ARE YOU TERRORISTS STEALING FROM THEM? BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS?
SOME KIND OF SUPER-BUG?
NOT... TERRORISTS...
...PLEASE...
WE'RE NOT TERRORISTS, MAN! WE'RE A TECHNOLOGY GROUP.
WE'RE JUST HERE ON A B&E JOB! OUR GEAR IS NON-LETHAL!
DROP

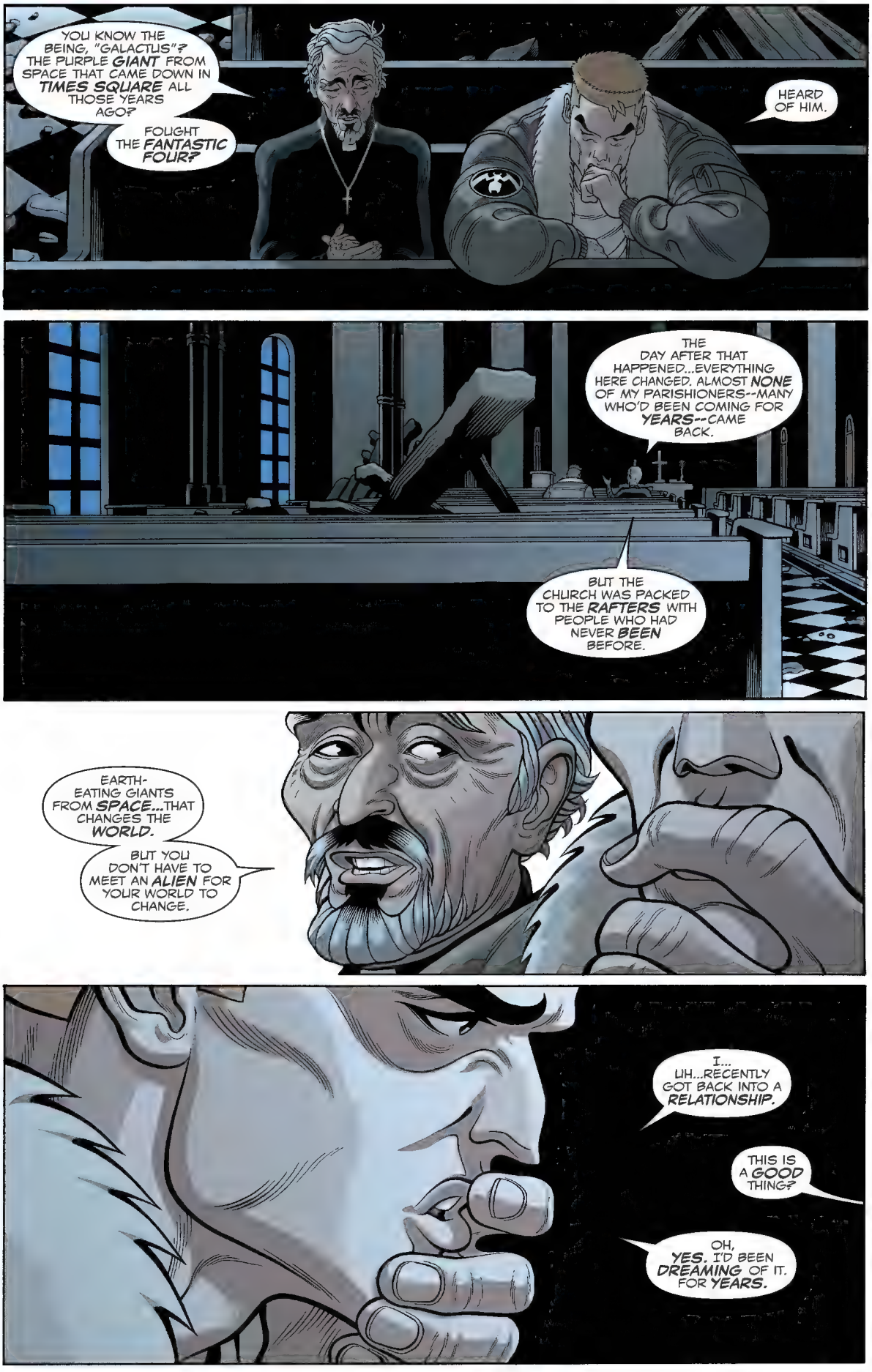
STEALING TECHNOLOGY, THEN. FOR WHOSE GAIN?
I GOT IT!
THIS LITTLE SUCKER IS GOING TO MAKE US RICH.
OH.

HOLY--!
GIVE.
IT.
TO.
US.
I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY! WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE AN EASY SCORE. THE PROPRIETARY SCIENCE IN THIS THING IS WORTH MILLIONS.
HERE. TAKE IT.
A TOMATO...?
THAT'S... ABSURD.
WE THOUGHT WE WERE STOPPING TERRORISTS
WE THOUGHT...
NO. STOP.

WHAT... WHAT HAPPENED BACK THERE?
WHY DID YOU DO THAT?
WANT US TO BE HEROES, EDDIE.
LITTLE MEN WERE WHERE THEY DIDN'T BELONG. TAKING SOMETHING THAT WASN'T THEIRS.
THEY WEREN'T HURTING ANYONE!
THIEVES, EDDIE!
ISN'T THIS WHAT YOU WANTED?
WE DON'T BUTCHER MEN FOR BEING THIEVES! WHAT WERE WE THINKING?
EDDIE WANTS TO BE HERO.
EDDIE CAN'T LOOK STUPID.


IS WHERE WE MET! WE MET HERE, EDDIE!
SAD, EDDIE?
NO, MY LOVE.
NO.
WHOZZAT?
SOMEBODY HERE?
YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE SO LATE.
YEAH. THIS PLACE AIN'T SAFE NO MORE.
CHOK

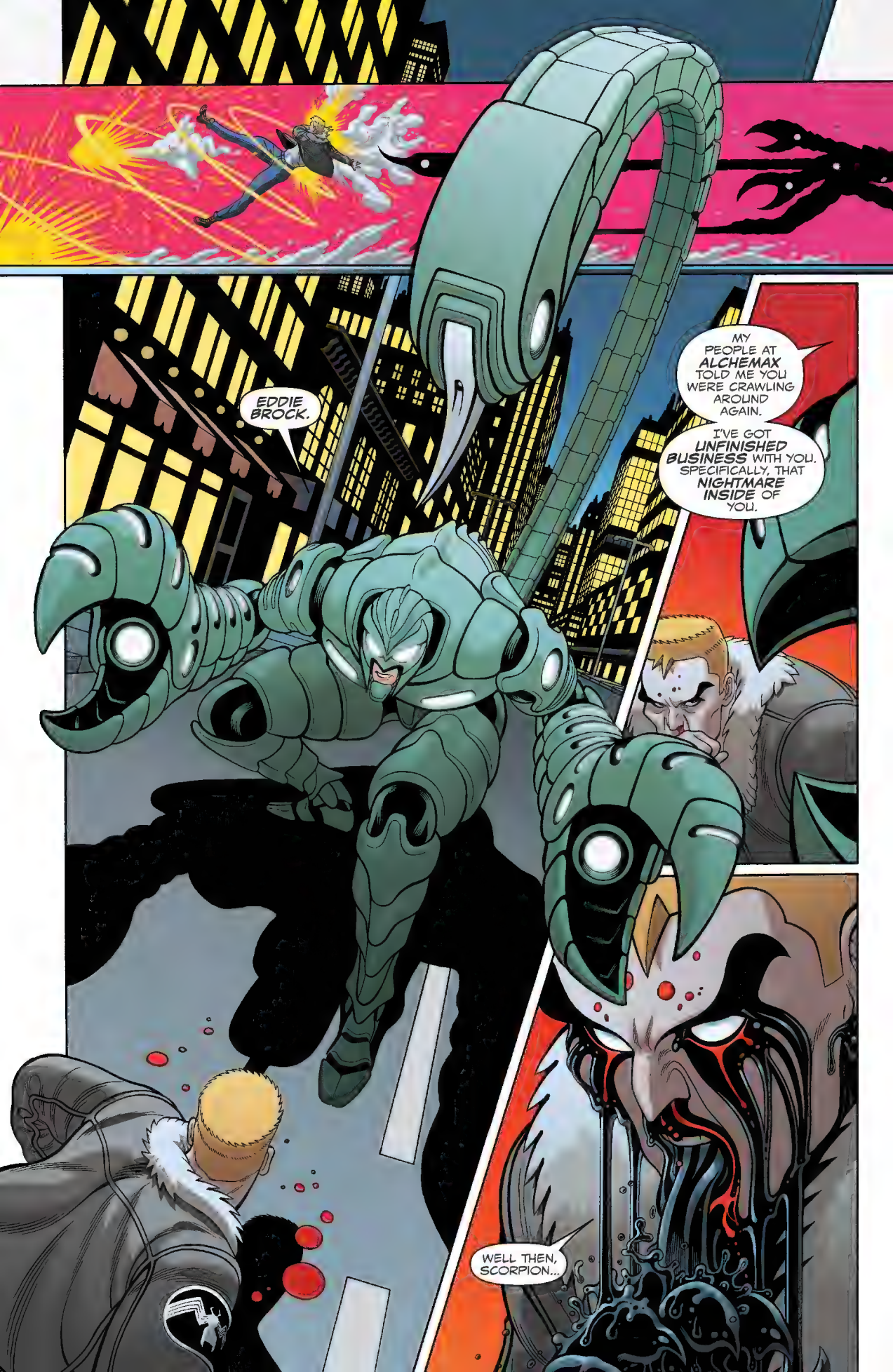
NOT TONIGHT, KIDS.
NOT WITH ME.
PLEASE.
YOU KNOW WHAT? #$%& THIS.
YEAH, LET'S GET OUTTA HERE.
WHAP!
$CRAM!
THANK YOU. THE DIOCESE HAS ASKED ME TO TRY TO RESTORE THIS PARISH, BUT THE GANG ACTIVITY HAS GOTTEN MORE AGGRESSIVE.
I CAN SEE YOU'RE A DANGEROUS MAN. HAVE YOU COME FOR BENEDICTION?
SORRY, FATHER. I DON'T BELIEVE IN THE BIG MAN UPSTAIRS ANYMORE.
AND YET YOU'VE COME TO HIS HOUSE.


YOU KNOW THE BEING, "GALACTUS"? THE PURPLE GIANT FROM SPACE THAT CAME DOWN IN TIMES SQUARE ALL THOSE YEARS AGO?
FOUGHT THE FANTASTIC FOUR?
HEARD OF HIM.
THE DAY AFTER THAT HAPPENED...EVERYTHING HERE CHANGED. ALMOST NONE OF MY PARISHIONERS--MANY WHO'D BEEN COMING FOR YEARS--CAME BACK.
BUT THE CHURCH WAS PACKED TO THE RAFTERS WITH PEOPLE WHO HAD NEVER BEEN BEFORE.
EARTH-EATING GIANTS FROM SPACE...THAT CHANGES THE WORLD.
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO MEET AN ALIEN FOR YOUR WORLD TO CHANGE.
I... UH...RECENTLY GOT BACK INTO A RELATIONSHIP.
THIS IS A GOOD THING?
OH, YES. I'D BEEN DREAMING OF IT. FOR YEARS.

AND NOW IT'S HAPPENED... AND IT'S NOT AS YOU'D HOPED? THINGS HAVE CHANGED?
I WENT THROUGH SO MUCH TO GET THIS BACK. SO MUCH PAIN.
AND NOW... I DID SOMETHING TONIGHT I THOUGHT I'D NEVER DO AGAIN. I THOUGHT THOSE DAYS WOULD BE BEHIND ME.
YOUR... PARNTER MADE YOU DO SOMETHING? AND NOW YOU REGRET--
NO.
I WILL NEVER REGRET THIS REUNION. I COULDN'T GO ON LIVING WITHOUT IT.
WE'RE TOGETHER NOW... BUT I DON'T KNOW WHO WE ARE TOGETHER.
YOU DON'T DO WHAT I DO, FOR AS LONG AS I'VE DONE IT, WITHOUT SEEING A LOT OF TROUBLE.
NOT PHYSICAL TROUBLES, LIKE YOU'VE SEEN. BUT WORSE TROUBLES, MAYBE. TROUBLES OF THE HEART AND SOUL.

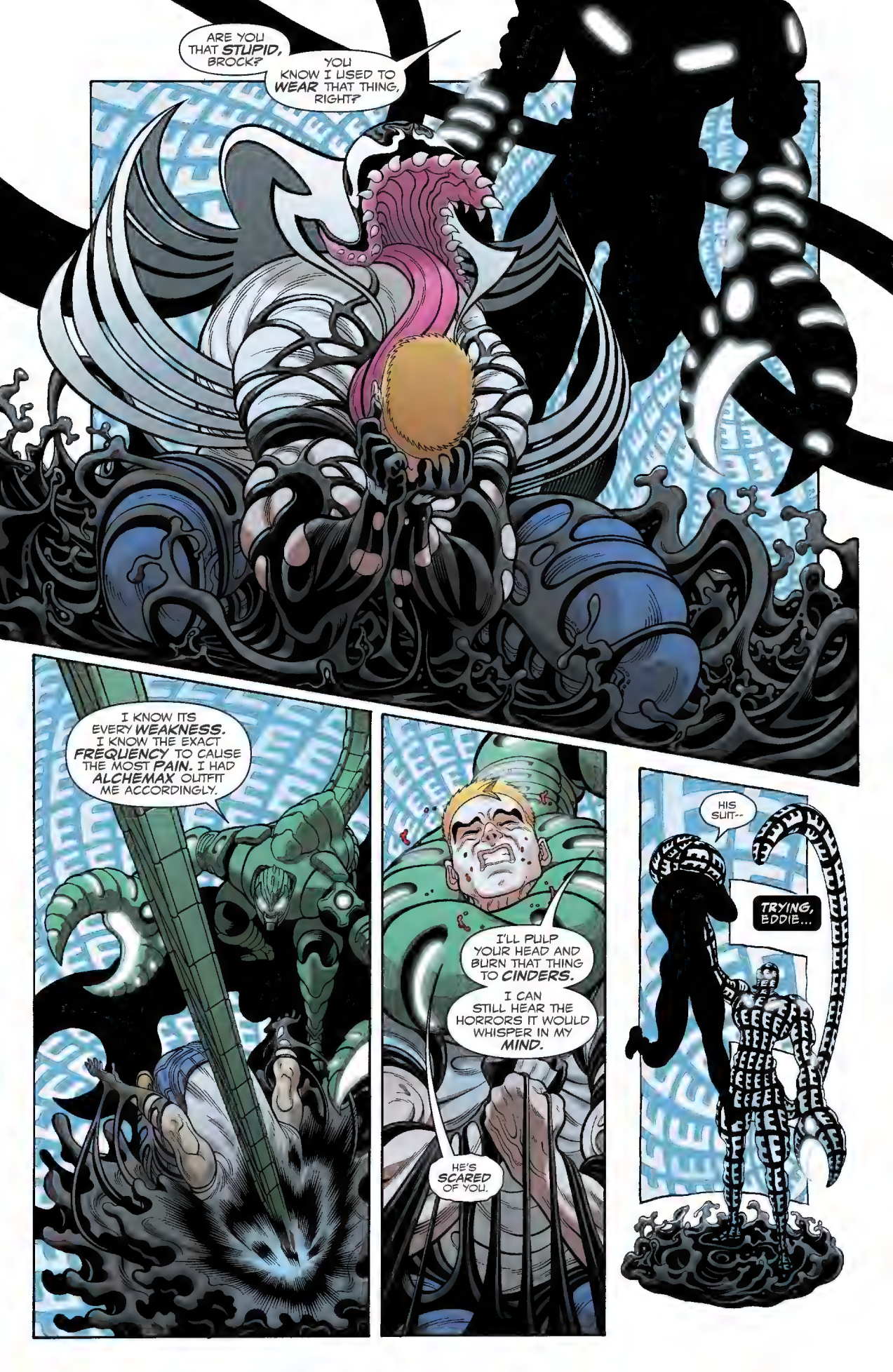
IF SOMEONE LOVES YOU, MY SON... THEY DON'T FORCE YOU TO DO THINGS YOU DON'T WANT TO DO.
DON'T LIKE THIS MAN, EDDIE.
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
I KNOW OBSESSION WHEN I HEAR IT. I KNOW WHAT LOVE TURNS INTO, WHEN IT'S USED TO JUSTIFY PAIN.
IT TURNS INTO SOMETHING UGLY.
WHAT'S HE SAYING, EDDIE? DON'T LIKE IT!
I HAVE TO GO.
I'M HERE WHEN YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.

I ONLY DO WHAT YOU WANT, EDDIE.
WHAT WE WANT.
AND WHAT DO WE WANT?
WE WANT TO BE TOGETHER, EDDIE. FOREVER.
YES, LOVE.
WE WANT TO HURT PEOPLE IN THE WAY. PEOPLE IN BETWEEN.
BUT NOBODY IS...
I'M JUST WORRIED THAT YOU'RE NOT OKAY.
THERE IS... ANGER. HATE.
SOMETIMES FEEL WEAK. SOMETIMES STRONG. EVEN WEAK, WILL KILL ANYONE WHO--
EDDIE...
...EDDIE, BEHIND!


EDDIE BROCK.
MY PEOPLE AT ALCHEMAX TOLD ME YOU WERE CRAWLING AROUND AGAIN.
I'VE GOT UNFINISHED BUSINESS WITH YOU. SPECIFICALLY, THAT NIGHTMARE INSIDE OF YOU.
WELL THEN, SCORPION...

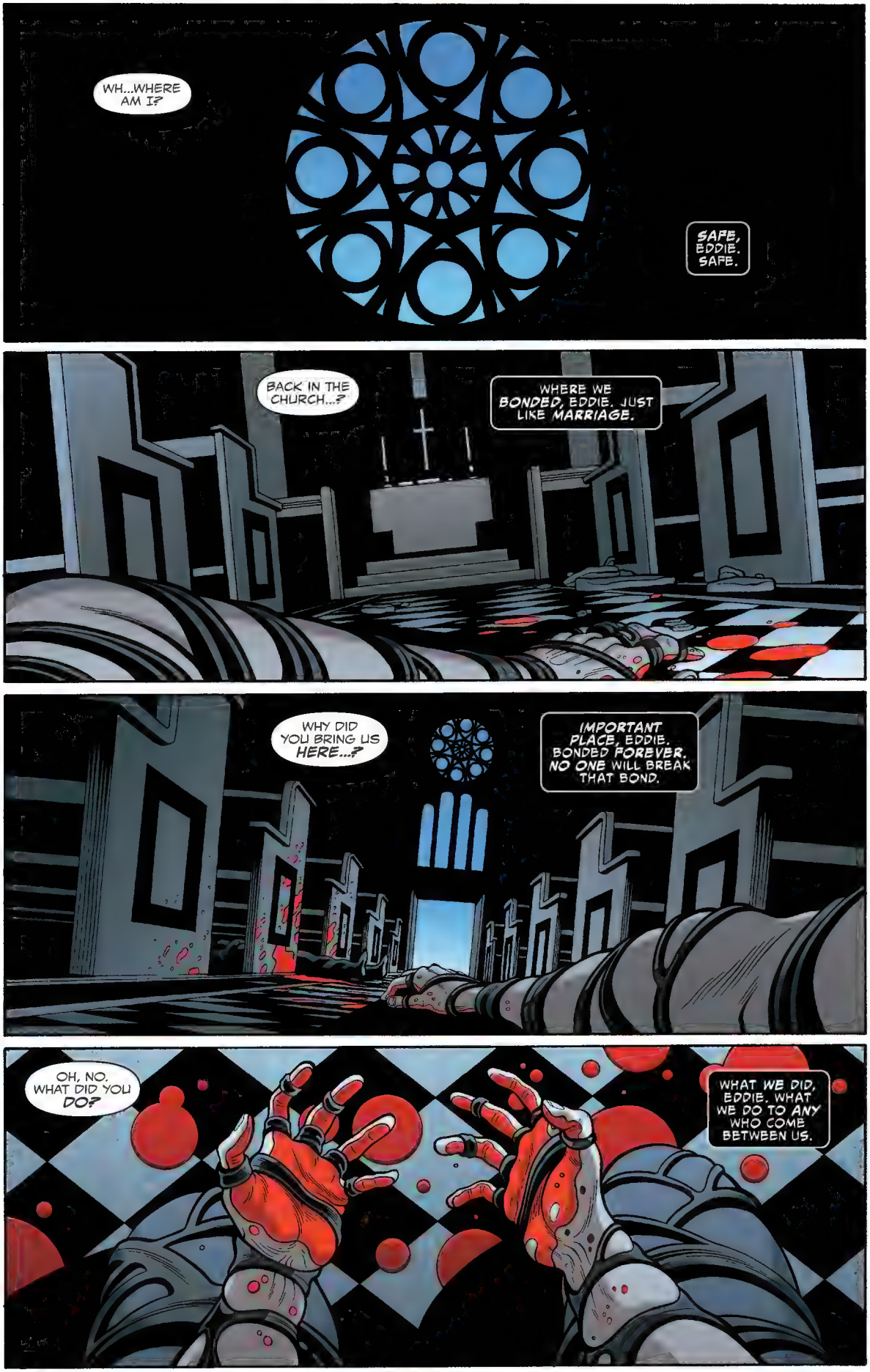
...LET'S FINISH IT!

THAT'S RIGHT. GET IN CLOSE...


ARE YOU THAT STUPID, BROCK?
YOU KNOW I USED TO WEAR THAT THING, RIGHT?
I KNOW ITS EVERY WEAKNESS. I KNOW THE EXACT FREQUENCY TO CAUSE THE MOST PAIN. I HAD ALCHEMAX OUTFIT ME ACCORDINGLY.
I'LL PULP YOUR HEAD AND BURN THAT THING TO CINDERS.
I CAN STILL HEAR THE HORRORS IT WOULD WHISPER IN MY MIND.
HE'S SCARED OF YOU.
HIS SUIT--
TRYING, EDDIE...

WAIT... WHAT'S--
NO! IT'S IN MY SUIT!
GET IT OUT!
GET OFF! GET IT OFF!
AS IF IT WOULD EVER LEAVE ME FOR YOU.

TOOK MORE OUT OF ME...
...THAN I THOUGHT.
WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE...
CAN'T LET THEM FIND US AND TAKE YOU AWAY...
DON'T WORRY, EDDIE.
ALWAYS TAKE CARE OF YOU.
WON'T LET ANYONE GET BETWEEN US.


WH...WHERE AM I?
SAFE, EDDIE. SAFE.
BACK IN THE CHURCH...?
WHERE WE BONDED, EDDIE. JUST LIKE MARRIAGE.
WHY DID YOU BRING US HERE...?
IMPORTANT PLACE, EDDIE. BONDED FOREVER. NO ONE WILL BREAK THAT BOND.
OH, NO. WHAT DID YOU DO?
WHAT WE DID, EDDIE. WHAT WE DO TO ANY WHO COME BETWEEN US.

NO ONE WILL PULL US APART AGAIN.
TO BE CONTINUED IN
VENOM #151!

CONTEMPLATING SUICIDE AFTER HIS LIFE FELL APART, DISGRACED REPORTER EDDIE BROCK SOUGHT FORGIVENESS AT THE SAME CHURCH WHERE SPIDER-MAN WAS REJECTING A LIVING, ALIEN COSTUME CALLED A SYMBIOTE. SENSING BROCK'S MISERY, THE SYMBIOTE BONDED WITH HIM AND IMBUED HIM WITH POWERS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.

FOR A TIME, EDDIE TRIED TO BE A HERO. HOWEVER, HIS VIOLENT METHODS OFTEN PUT HIM AT ODDS WITH HEROES AND VILLAINS ALIKE. EVENTUALLY, EDDIE AND THE SYMBIOTE WERE SEPARATED, AND, FOR A TIME, THEY WENT THEIR SEPARATE WAYS.

FOR A TIME, THEY WERE HAPPY LIVING SEPARATELY. BUT WHEN FATE OFFERED THEM THE CHANCE TO REUNITE, THEY FOUND THEMSELVES UNABLE TO RESIST.

TOGETHER OR APART, EDDIE AND THE SYMBIOTE WILL ALWAYS BE...

VENOM

HEART OF DARKNESS

MIKE COSTA
WRITER

TRADD MOORE
ARTIST

FELIPE SOBREIRO
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WEEKS AGO...
"IT WAS ALL GOING SO WELL.
"I ALMOST HAD MYSELF CONVINCED EVERYTHING WAS OKAY.
"I WAS GRATEFUL TO BE HOME AGAIN.
"GRATEFUL TO BE WITH FAMILY.
UGH, NEW YORK SUCKS.
HEY, WATCH YOUR MOUTH, SUNSHINE.
THESE LOWER DEMONS DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR HELL-MARK, DO THEY?
NAH, BUT WE CAN STILL PUNCH 'EM REAL GOOD.
I LIKE YOUR STYLE, MANIA.
"I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER...
OKAY, FINE. NYC PIZZA IS BETTER.
"...NOTHING THAT GOOD CAN LAST.
SAME TIME TOMORROW NIGHT?
YOU BET, COACH!
DO YOUR HOMEWORK.
YOU'RE NOT MY MOM.
BETA DEPARTING. ALPHA IS ALONE. YOU SURE THIS TECH CAN WITHSTAND ALPHA?
HE'S THE WEAKER OF THE TWO. AND HE'S THE ORIGINAL MAKE AND MODEL. HENCE THE "ALPHA." NOW MOVE BEFORE HE--

WE'RE ALONE NOW. YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWING ME ALL NIGHT...
...LET'S DO THIS!
NOT THE *TALKING* TYPE, *HUH?* HOW ABOUT WE GET THAT MASK OF YOURS OFF, AND SEE WHAT--
FWOOSH
NYARGH!
BIG MISTAKE, PAL. NOW YOU'VE MADE US...

...ANGRY!
THIS WAS YOUR PLAN? GET BEATEN DOWN?
NOT EXACTLY...
...JUST NEEDED... TO GET...YOU CLOSE...

BOOM
GAH!
YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR THAT, PAL!
NYARRRRRGH!
AAAAAAARGH!
EASY, VENOM, IT'S JUST ME.
SNYARGH!
BUDDY... IT'S ME. JUST CALM DO--

VENOM, WAIT!
NOT SO TOUGH WITHOUT YOUR FRIEND, EH--?
STAY THE HELL AWAY FROM ME AND MY FRIEND, PAL.
VENOM, WAIT!
-)KZZT(- SITREP, OVER. -)BZZKKZZT(- YOUR VITALS ARE SPIKING.
I'M FINE, I'M FINE. THE SUIT IS DONE, THOUGH. DON'T WORRY. IT SERVED ITS PURPOSE...
...THE PACKAGE HAS BEEN SEPARATED AND IS IN THE OPEN.
EXCELLENT WORK, **AGENT WAMBAUGH.** EXFIL TEAM IS EN ROUTE. WE'LL HAVE YOU OUT OF THERE IN MINUTES.

"I KNEW MY PARTNER WAS HURT.
"I SEARCHED EVERYWHERE FOR HIM.
HE WAS HERE, I CAN FEEL IT. AND HE'S STILL IN PAIN.
"WHEN I LOST HIS TRAIL...
"...I LOST HOPE.
"WHICH IS WHY I'M HERE."
AND I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU ALL FOR LISTENING TONIGHT.
I JUST... I JUST HOPE MY PARTNER--MY FRIEND--HAS SOMEONE HE CAN TALK TO NOW.
I HOPE HE'S NOT ALONE.
IT WAS ALL GOING SO WELL.
I ALMOST HAD MYSELF CONVINCED EVERYTHING WAS OKAY.

BUT THEN...
HSS!
...NOW ALL I FEEL IS ANGER.
AND I AM ASHAMED TO SAY...
...IT FEELS GOOD.
NO...NO... I'M NOT...THIS ISN'T ME...THIS ISN'T...
I TRIED TO FIGHT THIS FEELING.
...ME...

DEPENDENCE DAY

ROBBIE THOMPSON WRITER
GERARDO SANDOVAL ARTIST
DONO SÁNCHEZ-ALMARA COLOR ARTIST

VENOM

COVER GALLERY

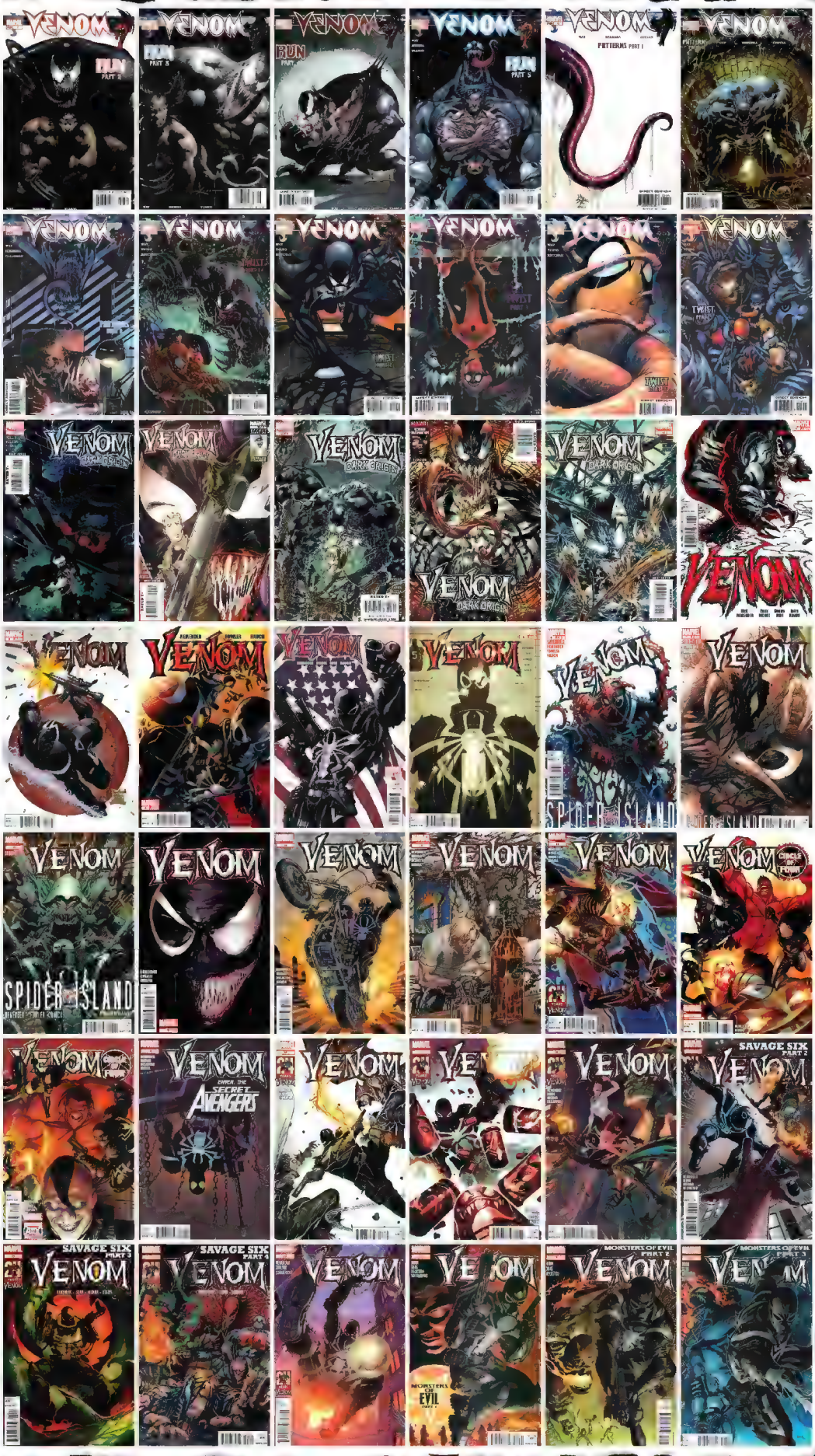
IN THE CHARACTER'S NEAR 30-YEAR HISTORY, VENOM HAS BEEN FEATURED IN DOZENS OF LIMITED SERIES, EVENT SPECIALS AND EVEN A FEW ONGOING SERIES--INCLUDING THE HUMBLE COMICS MAG YOU'RE HOLDING IN YOUR HANDS ***RIGHT NOW!***

IN THAT TIME, THE CHARACTER HAS SQUARED OFF AGAINST SPIDER-MAN AND A HANDFUL OF OTHER HEROES, TRAVELED THROUGH THE GALAXY AS AN AGENT OF THE COSMOS AND, ABOVE ALL, LETHALLY PROTECTED THE INNOCENTS OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE!

SO TAKE A LOOK BACK THROUGH YESTERYEAR, TRUE BELIEVER, AND FEAST YOUR EYES ON THIS COLLECTION OF COVERS ASSEMBLED IN THE HALLOWED HALLS OF THE HOUSE OF IDEAS BY THE MIGHTY MARVEL BULLPEN!

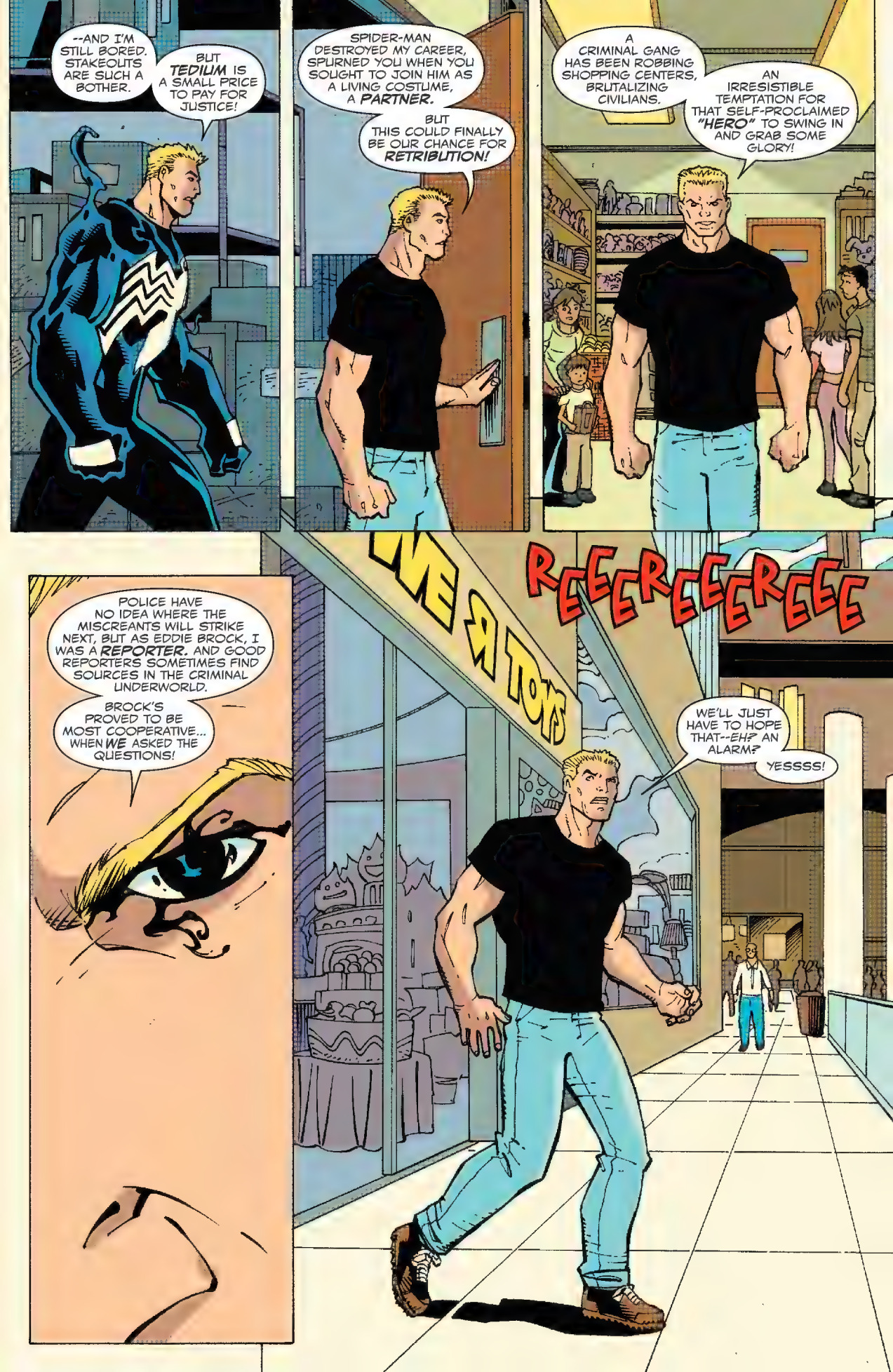
- EDITOR

VENOM
SYMBIOTE SIEGE!
DEADLY REUNION!
PLANET OF THE SYMBIOTES
SINNER TAKES ALL!
EAT THIS!
THE BRIDGE
TRUE ROMANCE
THE NEW SPIDER-MAN
ALONG CAME A SPIDER...
THE HUNGER
IN THE WHITE ROOM
THE HUNTED
THE LIVING WEAPON
TAKE THE "A" TRAIN...
VS. ITS OWN WOLVERINE
TOOTH AND CLAW
WOLVERINE
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!
FINALE
ONE SECOND AWAY!
I AM THE LAW!
KILL
LET'S RISE TO KILL
ON TRIAL
FLASHBACK
KROBAA


VENOM
RUN PART 1
RUN PART 2
RUN PART 3
RUN PART 5
PATTERNS PART 1
TWIST PART 1
TWIST PART 2
TWIST PART 3
TWIST PART 4
DARK ORIGIN
VENOM
SPIDER-ISLAND
SECRET AVENGERS
SAVAGE SIX PART 2
SAVAGE SIX PART 3
SAVAGE SIX PART 4
MONSTERS OF EVIL PART 2
MONSTERS OF EVIL PART 3
MONSTERS OF EVIL PART 4

VENOM
VENOM
VENOM

STRICKLAND MALL, QUEENS COUNTY, NEW YORK. YEARS AGO...
ONE SPIDER, TWO SPIDERS, THREE SPIDERS--
FLASHBACK
THE CONFLICTED CREATURE CALLED VENOM HAS GONE THROUGH MANY CHANGES OVER THE YEARS; THIS IS A STORY BEFORE THOSE CHANGES.
--FOUR!
SPAK
MALLED!
DAVID MICHELINIE WRITER RON LIM PENCILER
JOHN LIVESAY INKER LEE LOUGHRIDGE COLORIST
YES, YES, I KNOW IT'S MORE LIKE FOUR DOZEN...
...FIVE DOZEN, 10 DOZEN...
--BUT WHO'S COUNTING? BESIDES, PLAYTIME'S OVER--


--AND I'M STILL BORED. STAKEOUTS ARE SUCH A BOTHER.
BUT TEDIUM IS A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR JUSTICE!
SPIDER-MAN DESTROYED MY CAREER, SPURNED YOU WHEN YOU SOUGHT TO JOIN HIM AS A LIVING COSTUME, A PARTNER.
BUT THIS COULD FINALLY BE OUR CHANCE FOR RETRIBUTION!
A CRIMINAL GANG HAS BEEN ROBBING SHOPPING CENTERS, BRUTALIZING CIVILIANS.
AN IRRESISTIBLE TEMPTATION FOR THAT SELF-PROCLAIMED "HERO" TO SWING IN AND GRAB SOME GLORY!
POLICE HAVE NO IDEA WHERE THE MISCREANTS WILL STRIKE NEXT, BUT AS EDDIE BROCK, I WAS A REPORTER. AND GOOD REPORTERS SOMETIMES FIND SOURCES IN THE CRIMINAL UNDERWORLD.
BROCK'S PROVED TO BE MOST COOPERATIVE... WHEN WE ASKED THE QUESTIONS!
REEEREEEREEE
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO HOPE THAT--EH? AN ALARM?
YESSSS!

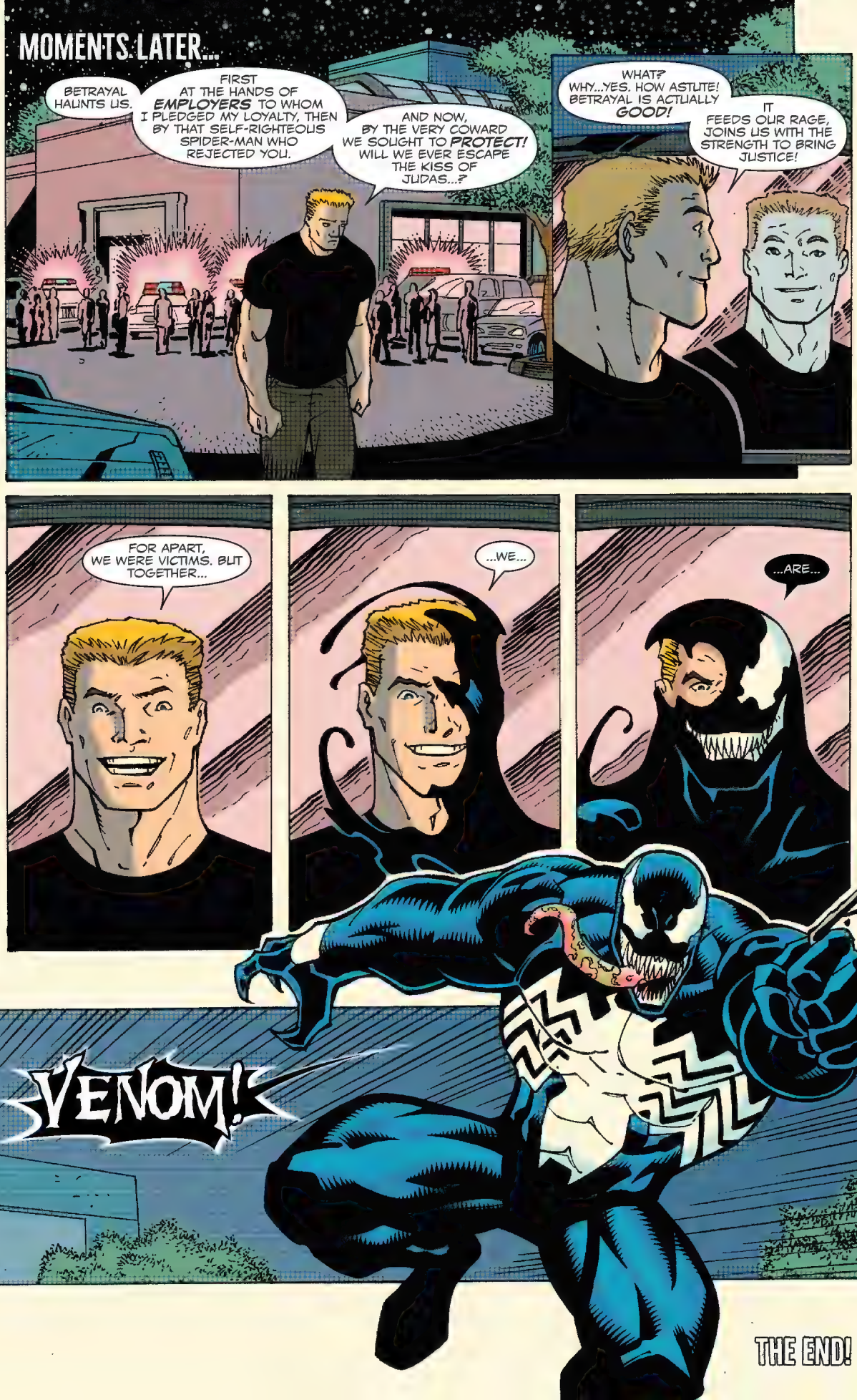
OUTTA THE WAY, SLOWPOKES, AN' YA WON'T GET HURT!
MAYBE!
SHHH! WE HAVE TO BE CAUTIOUS.
IF WE SHOW OURSELF AND SPIDER-MAN DOESN'T ARRIVE, HE'LL BE FOREWARNED NEXT TIME.
WE'LL SIMPLY STAY PUT, OUT OF SIGHT, AND WAIT FOR--
NO, PLEASE! D-DON'T KILL ME--!
BAD NEWS, SMART GUY: TRIPPIN' THAT ALARM WAS A BIG MISTAKE!
THE GOOD NEWS?
YOU WON'T BE MAKIN' ANY MORE!
K-KLIK

PLIP
THAT NOBLE GUARDIAN WAS MERELY DOING HIS JOB! HE IS INNOCENT OF WRONGDOING!
KAKLEESH
WHICH IS MORE THAN WE CAN SAY FOR YOU!
KRAK KRAK
GUNS, WHEN WILL PEOPLE LEARN??
GUNS...
PLIP
AAAGGH!
...HURT!
PHOOMP

I DON'T GET IT! I'D SWEAR THAT PSYCHO WAS RIGHT BEHIND ME!
WHERE'D HE GO?
"NONE ARE SO BLIND...
"...AS THOSE WHO WILL NOT SEE!"
GLLK!
EVER. AGAIN.

HAVE YOU BEEN DAMAGED? DO YOU REQUIRE ASSISTANCE?
K-KEEP AWAY FROM ME! S-STAY BACK--!
BDAM BDAM
YOUR AGGRESSION IS...
...PUZZLING.
D-DON'T HURT ME! HURT HER INSTEAD!
YOU WERE ENTRUSTED WITH THE SAFETY OF THESE PEOPLE, WITH THEIR LIVES.
THIS IS HOW YOU HONOR THAT RESPONSIBILITY?
WE ABANDONED OUR CHANCE TO PUNISH A MUCH WORSE VILLAIN TO PROTECT YOU!
APPARENTLY, WE WERE IN ERROR.

YOU...
...ARE NOT...
...INNOCENT!
MLIH...MLIH... MONSTER!
CORRECT, MADAM.
BUT HE WON'T HARM YOU NOW.


MOMENTS LATER...
BETRAYAL HAUNTS US.
FIRST AT THE HANDS OF EMPLOYERS TO WHOM I PLEDGED MY LOYALTY, THEN BY THAT SELF-RIGHTEOUS SPIDER-MAN WHO REJECTED YOU.
AND NOW, BY THE VERY COWARD WE SOUGHT TO PROTECT! WILL WE EVER ESCAPE THE KISS OF JUDAS...?
WHAT? WHY...YES. HOW ASTUTE! BETRAYAL IS ACTUALLY GOOD!
IT FEEDS OUR RAGE, JOINS US WITH THE STRENGTH TO BRING JUSTICE!
FOR APART, WE WERE VICTIMS. BUT TOGETHER...
...WE...
...ARE...
VENOM!
THE END!

SYMBIWROTE

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BLACK AND WHITE AND RED ALL OVER!

Hello, in here, out there, around the world and aboard all the ships at sea! VENOM editor Devin Lewis reporting to you live and in-print for this, a very special OVERSIZED 150th issue featuring your favorite symbiotic web-slinger!

This issue has been in the works for MONTHS! I took over as VENOM editor way back in June of last year, after the terrific Robbie Thompson/Gerardo Sandoval VENOM: SPACE KNIGHT volume (if you haven't read it, GO GET IT!), and one of the first things I did was task Spider-Office intern extraordinaire, Annalise Bissa, to do some digging into the character's history. Annalise's research revealed that within six months, this volume of the VENOM series would bring us to this very special milestone.

I've been a Venom fan for as long as I could read comics, and I wanted this issue to stand apart from the Venom series, specials, and spectaculars that have come before it. Enter our guest artist: Tradd Moore!

I first reached out to Tradd for this project in November of last year, six months prior to the time of this very writing! It took some pleading from your favorite editor, Marvelites, but we got 'im! And, boy, am I so glad that we did! Tradd's work is some of the craziest, most expressive and action-packed work in comics today, and he took Mike's already-fantastic script and ran with it. Ask Allison and Nick--I was GIDDY every time one of Tradd's pages came in. I'd print 'em out and run down the hallowed halls of the Marvel Offices with them like a kid on Christmas morning! CAN YOU BLAME ME?!

But that wasn't all we had up our sleeves for this issue! If there's one question that's plagued my inbox since taking over as VENOM editor, it's what happened to Flash Thompson. Flash has been a part of the Spider-Man tapestry for years, and if you Mighty Marvelites were worried we'd just left him in the dust, WELL NOW YOU KNOW THE TRUTH! It was a real treat to be able to reunite Robbie and Gerardo to complete their story with Flash and Agent Venom. And if you're wondering what's next for Flash, KEEP READING, TRUE BELIEVERS!

Last but not least, what a treat it was to get Venom co-creator David Michelinie on board for another adventure set in the LETHAL PROTECTOR-era with none other than industry legend Ron Lim. Loyal VENOM readers will know that I hate Venom's tongue to a perhaps-unreasonable degree, but SINCE IT WAS ERA-APPROPRIATE, I encouraged Ron to have some fun with it, and I'm glad I did!

But, hey, enough jibber-jabber from me! Let's see what you folks out in Mighty Marveldom have to say!

Dear SymbiWrote,

When I put issue #6 back into its slipcase, I cracked a grin I've been waiting to crack for thirteen years.

I never would have imagined that the identity of Venom would embark on the twists and turns it has, that one day the concept of the character wouldn't even include Eddie at all. I always figured Mac Gargan would be temporary, and when Flash came along, I was dumbfounded at the start - as I would be when I eventually had to face up to the very real truth that he was as good a Venom as anyone ever was. I LOVED Flash as Venom despite being a fan of Eddie's since I was a kid. Point in fact, by the end of VENOM: SPACE KNIGHT, there wasn't anybody I'd rather have joined with the symbiote, except one guy.

And while parting with Flash is bittersweet (sorry, Lee Price, but I figured you for a stopgap too, from the start), I'm very, very much looking forward to seeing how we'll explore Eddie and the symbiote once more - two personalities who've changed so much since the last time they were together, who must surely need to learn to work with each other again, and how these notions can be reconciled with the hilariously unhinged lunacy that so many of us remember and love Eddie's Venom for.

It's no stretch to say that it's a different Marvel Universe since the last time Eddie was in the black. The comics medium has evolved; a whole new generation of writers with fresh approaches graces Marvel's pages now, and I cannot wait to see what Costa and future writers will do with my favorite screwball symbiote team.

It's been a long wait, at times painful, but I knew it'd happen someday. Thanks so much for finally bringing them together again.

Dave S.
Montreal, Quebec
Venom fan since '89

Couldn't agree with you more, Dave. I was the Spidey-Office intern when Agent Venom made his debut, and I wasn't sure how I'd feel about the character. But, like you, I warmed to Flash as Venom quite quickly, and bittersweet is the only word for his time as Venom coming to a close. But, as you can see from this very issue, Flash's time as Venom may be over, but his story is not. Keep your eyes peeled across your favorite Spidey books over the next few months, and I think you'll be pleasantly surprised. Thanks for reading!

I hope this letter appears in Eddie's Clubhouse! Are we doing Eddie's Clubhouse again? Well either way, I hope this reaches the dudes making the Venom series. It kicks butt. That poor symbiote can't catch a break, the second it's all heroic, some sociopath comes along and makes it do bad stuff. When it was announced online that Eddie Brock was returning to his position as the host of Venom, I symbiote screeched. Well, I screamed like a little girl actually, but...point is, I am excited.

Cheers on the big #150, can't wait to read it!

A symbiote fan named Jesse

Thanks, Jesse! We're still SymbiWrote for now, but maybe Eddie's Clubhouse will make a return at some point in the future... Hope this issue lived up to your expectations! You won't believe what's coming!

Hey there, beautiful people! I've got a question that's been eating at my brain for a bit now. Is Anti-Venom an actual symbiote? We need to know! For science. Thanks for all the awesome reading and I'm really looking forward to "VENOMVERSE!"

Big V.

This is another question that's popped up a lot, and since we got to see Tradd's rendition of Anti-Venom in pages 2-3 of this story, I figured now was as good a time as any to answer it! TECHNICALLY speaking, Anti-Venom was not a sentient symbiote, like Venom. It was, in fact, reanimated traces of symbiotic material left within Eddie Brock's body that were mutated after being exposed to Mister Negative's unique abilities.

Hey, since you mentioned it--what's VENOMVERSE? First I'm hearing of it...

Dear Team Venom,

I've been a Venomaniac for nearly two decades. I was first exposed to Venom and the symbiotes, like many from my generation, through *Spider-Man: The Animated Series*. Though I missed out on regularly collecting any Eddie Brock/Venom series as they were published, I became a regular Venom subscriber at the very start of Flash Thompson's run as Agent Venom.

I've liked every Venom host, from the original, Eddie, to poor Angelo Fortunato and Flash--I even like Mac Gargan! If anyone is familiar with The Venom Site's podcast, *We Are Venomaniacs!*, of which I am a host, they know I and my co-hosts have had little love for Venom's most recent host, Lee Price. So, when Marvel announced that Eddie would be returning as the host of Venom, I was immensely relieved and only slightly melancholic.

Eddie is my favorite fictional character of all time. That's no secret--I wear it as a badge of geek honor. I've loved his oft-misunderstood character progression from the host of Venom to cancer patient, and to becoming and losing Anti-Venom. He's had some great character growth that most people miss when they look at him. When he became the new Toxin host, I was a little disheartened by the regression in that progress; he was devolving back to his Lethal Protector ways. I loved his Lethal Protector days and firmly believe they were some of his best as Venom, but the way

he acted as Toxin felt like backpedaling in characterization.

I also believe that Eddie was at his prime in characterization as Anti-Venom. He was finally working toward a better future for himself. He was slowly becoming the hero he always imagined himself to be as Venom. While he regressed a bit on that forward progression as Toxin, he had a breakthrough recently under Gerry Conway's hand in CARNAGE #15 that gave me a glimmer of hope. (Props to Conway and co. for a great run on Carnage!) While I still lament that Eddie isn't going to be Anti-Venom again, I hope that as Venom once more, we'll see him in a better state than he was when he was Venom 13 years ago and during his Lethal Protector days. I hope Mike Costa and co. bring Eddie-Venom back as a "Lethal Protector PLUS." (Wherever Costa and co. go with him, I'll just be glad we no longer have Lee in control of the symbiote!)

Sincerely,
Orion P.
A Lifelong Venomaniac

Hi, Orion, and thanks for your letter! I've listened to a few episodes of your podcast, and it's great stuff! We here at Marvel love it when fans are passionate about these characters. So thank you for spreading the symbiotic word!

I wear my love of Eddie Brock as a badge of honor, as well, and I can only hope that this issue has done you proud!

Dear Venom Dudes,

Holy crap!

Issue #6 was amazing! Eddie Brock back as Venom?! About time! Don't get me wrong, I loved Flash Thompson as Venom, but there's just something about Eddie Brock being Venom that just feels right.

I really hope this is not just for a couple of issues and then Lee gets the symbiote back. It was an incredibly interesting dynamic where the symbiote wanted to be good and its host did not, but I just don't care for Lee that much. He's dark, he's troubled, yeah yeah. I will say this, though, his Venom/Misfits costume was pretty legit.

Thank you for bringing back Eddie Brock! I am really looking forward to #150!

Sincerely,
Matt W.

Dear SymbiWrote,

Just picked up the first three new issues of VENOM and was not disappointed. Venom has long been one of my all-time favorite characters and the Agent Venom/Flash Thompson run really revamped the character. Of course, I'll always love Eddie Brock as the Lethal Protector and Spidey's reluctant partner but this new run is definitely giving us a different look at Venom.

Usually the story focuses on the host as Venom leaving the Symbiote itself as an afterthought or influence, but for a change we're hearing a lot of Venom's inner thoughts and views. I like where this is going, the inner struggle of the symbiote trying to do good is an interesting take. The art is beautiful and really sets the mood. Hope to see some tie-in with Eddie Brock the man himself, as I recall he is now Toxin.

Please?

Mauricio S.

Thanks for writing, Mauricio! You're exactly right that we're hearing more of the symbiote's voice now than we ever have before. That was all Mike Costa's idea--he had a very specific vision for the symbiote's expression in this series, and he wanted to give it a chance to express itself in a way that it never had before. It sounds like he pulled it off, if you've enjoyed those first three issues as much as you seem to, and I hope this one didn't leave you disappointed!

Dear SYMBIWROTE,

I've been reading Venom's adventures regularly since ASM #374, and reading the current series has me thinking about the future of our favorite symbiote!! First and foremost, Angelo's story is compelling but I hope that his time as Venom is short-lived. He is unfortunately one of my least favorite Venom regulars. I think that we have enough people that have had the suit to go around for a while. In fact, why take the suit from Flash? So many people agree that he was perfect for it; possibly THE most perfect for it.

Quick side note, it's interesting that every person who has had the Venom costume starts out a villain (except Spidey, of course) and becomes a hero. Mac, of course, was one of the most brutal, and I think that he is the standard for the murderous side of Venom, and even he did SOME heroic stuff during DARK REIGN. Brock and Flash especially both hated Spidey, but when it came down to it, they both proved to be two of the biggest heroes in the Marvel Universe (yes, I said it about Brock--*Spider-Island* for example). I guess that this is all because they both always wanted to be heroes and had twisted moments along the way. My FAVORITE Brock moment is when he exposed Mister Negative. It felt like he had such a sense of fulfillment and that his life was coming around full circle--as getting a similar story wrong is what led him down the dark path in the first place.

Brock as Anti-Venom was, to me, his perfect evolution. I guess things change, but so far he seems to be devolving instead of evolving for the most part (Brock's truce with Flash and also the CARNAGE series were step in the right direction though--finally).

I'll keep reading but I hope that things work out in a cool way for Venom. With the suit actually experiencing being an intergalactic hero with Flash, and Brock being an antihero, I can only imagine how things would be if Brock gets his original suit back.

Whatever the case, I'll keep reading.

Keep protecting the innocents.

Joel G.

Thanks for reading and for being such a loyal Spider-Fan, Joel! There's nothing better for the Spider-Team than hearing from longtime readers like you. Gerry Conway did some terrific work with Eddie, and you have this editor's word that we're going to be loyal to his character development in that series!

Looks like we've got room for exactly one more letter, Venomaniacs! So, let's hear from a new reader!

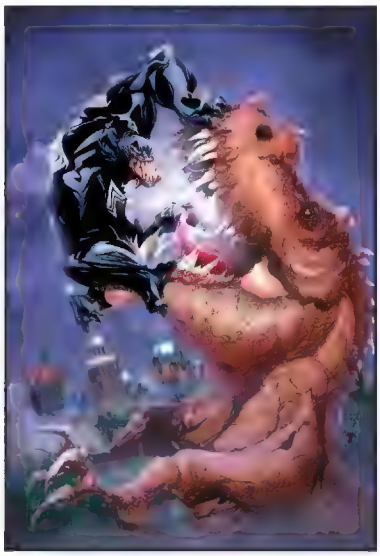
Dear Venom Team,

I have never read a Venom or Spider-Man book before so I honestly didn't know what to expect going in, but I have to say that I have fallen in love with this series. The storytelling has engulfed me in a way comics haven't in a long time and I honestly am surprised at every turn! The art is stellar, it really adds a whole new dimension to the book. Great job to everyone involved in crafting such a fun story and I cant wait to see where it goes.

Tyler B.
Prescott, AZ

NEVER READ A VENOM OR SPIDER-MAN BOOK BEFORE?! Oh, MAN, Tyler! HOW HAVE YOU LIVED?! Let me be the first to welcome you to the insane and beautiful world of Spidey comics. Hope you survive the experience...that's an X-Men reference, but it still applies!

That seems like as good a note as any to end on! Be sure to let us know how we're doing at SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM and be back here IN ONE MONTH for VENOM #151, featuring the return of Gerardo Sandoval on interior art duties and Eddie Brock squaring off against his first big-time Marvel Universe baddie... STEGRON THE DINOSAUR MAN! It will be... A LAND BEFORE CRIME! Don't miss it!



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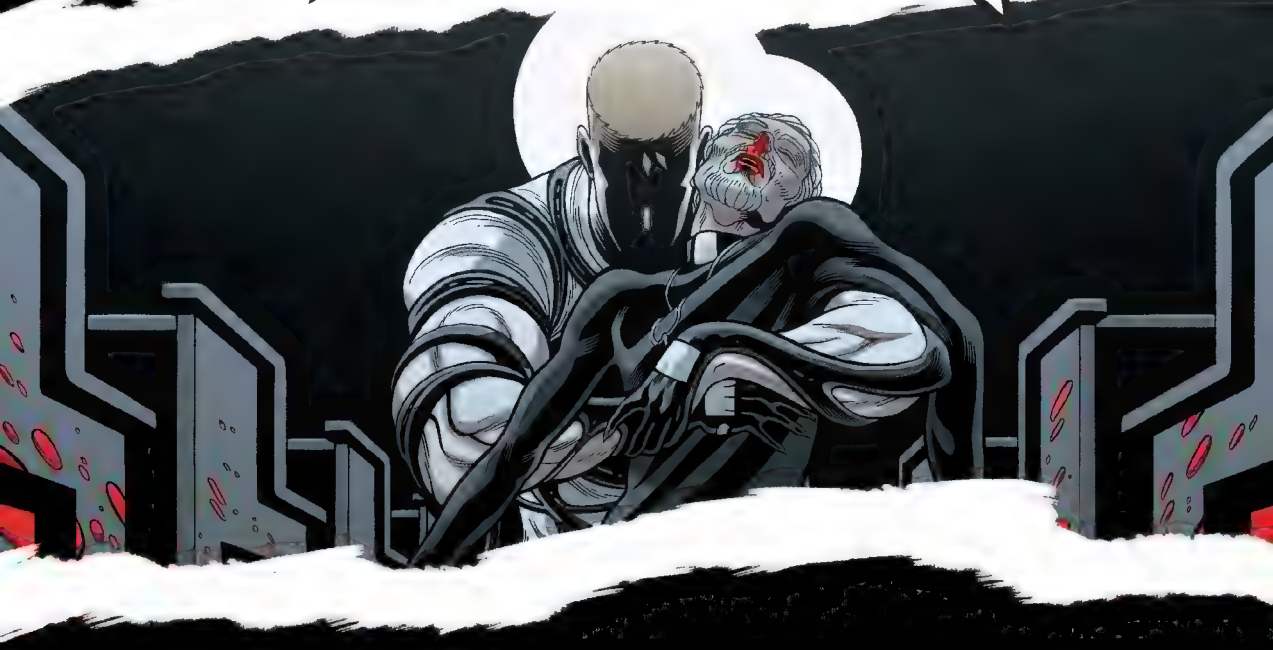
MARVEL
RATED T+
151
COSTA
SANDOVAL
ALMARA
THE
LAND
BEFORE CRIME
STARTS HERE!
VENOM

YEARS AGO, PETER PARKER (A.K.A. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN) ACCIDENTALLY BONDED WITH AN ALIEN BEING CALLED A SYMBIOTE. WHEN PETER REALIZED THE COSTUME WAS ACTUALLY AN AGGRESSIVE LIVING ORGANISM, HE REJECTED IT. BUT DURING THEIR TIME TOGETHER, THE SYMBIOTE HAD ACCESS TO SPIDER-MAN'S GENETIC CODE, AND NOW GRANTS WHOMEVER IT BONDS WITH SKILLS SIMILAR TO HIS: WALL-CRAWLING, THE POWER TO GENERATE BIOORGANIC WEBBING, AND UNIQUE ABILITIES TO SHAPE-SHIFT AND BECOME INVISIBLE, TURNING THEM INTO...

VENOM



EDDIE BROCK AND THE VENOM SYMBIOTE HAVE BEEN REUNITED, BUT BOTH OF THEM HAVE CHANGED SINCE THEY WERE LAST TOGETHER.

VENOM'S MOST RECENT HOST WAS DANGEROUS, VIOLENT, AND CONTROLLING, AND HIS TIME WITH THE SYMBIOTE HAS LEFT IT EMOTIONALLY UNSTABLE. IT STILL WANTS TO BE A HERO, BUT IT IS STRUGGLING TO CONTAIN ITS MORE VIOLENT IMPULSES.

WHEN THE PRIEST AT EDDIE'S CHURCH, ADVISED HIM TO AVOID CONTROLLING INFLUENCES, THE SYMBIOTE BECAME ANGRY. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, EDDIE FOUND HIMSELF BACK IN THE CHURCH WITH THE PRIEST'S BLOOD ON HIS HANDS...

THE LAND BEFORE CRIME
PART ONE

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GERARDO SANDOVAL
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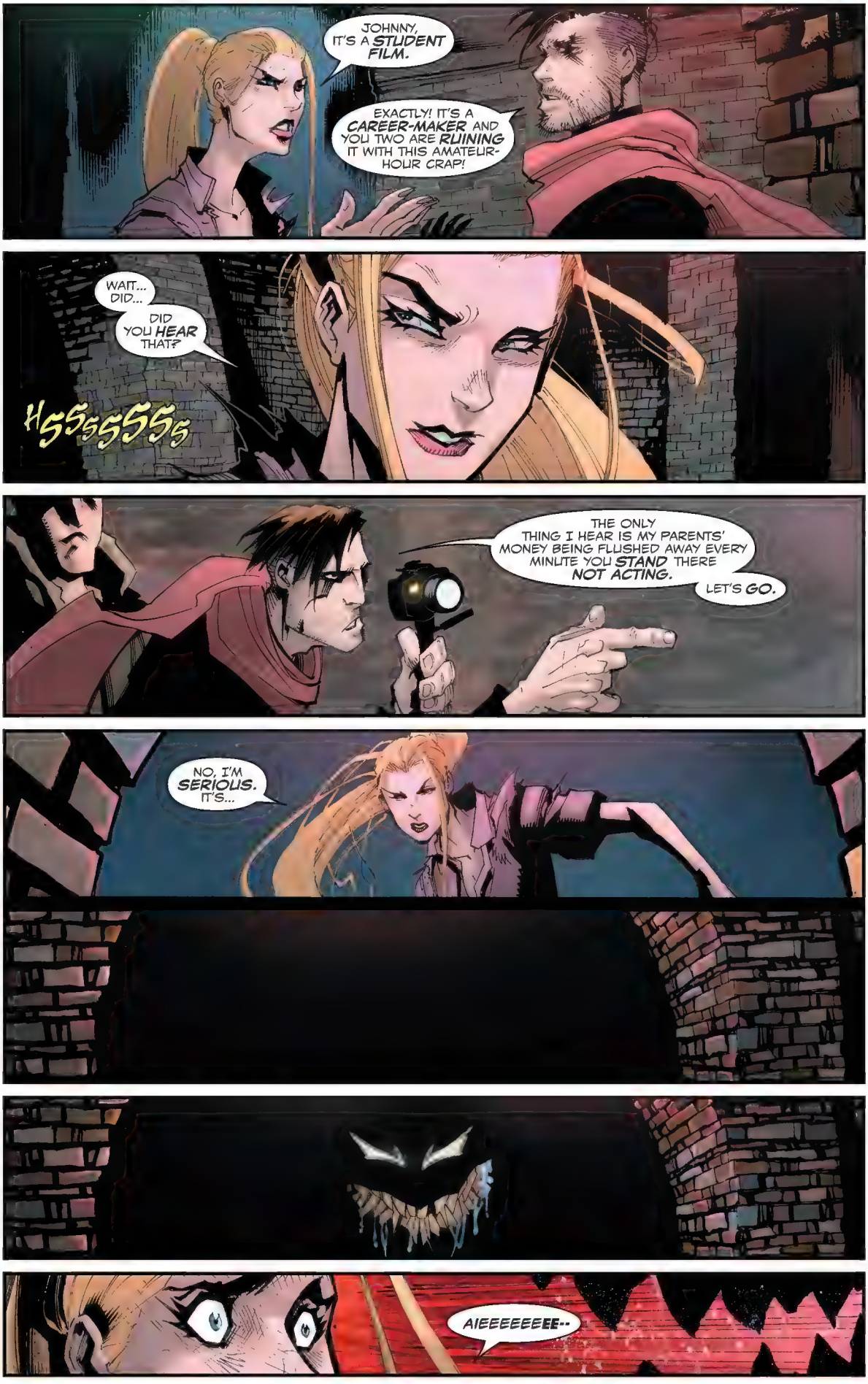
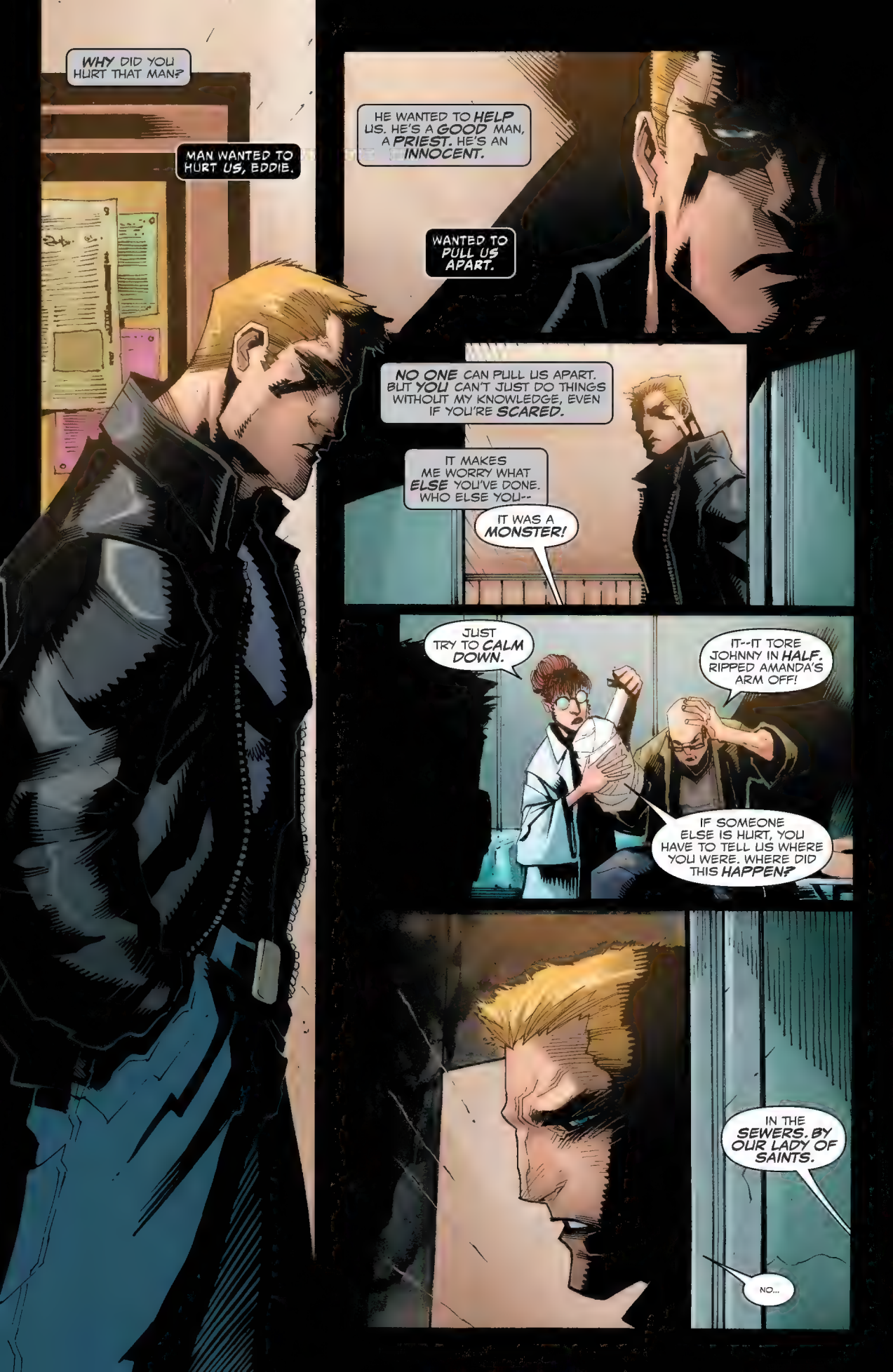
NO, THIS IS STUPID.
THIS ISN'T SCARY AT ALL.
COME ON, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, JOHNNY?
THIS SUIT IS HOT.
THE PROBLEM IS, THAT COSTUME LOOKS TERRIBLE IN THESE LIGHTS. YOU CAN SEE ALL THE SEAMS.
NOBODY IS GOING TO WANT TO WATCH THIS MOVIE.
I NEVER SHOULD HAVE LET YOU TALK ME OUT OF THE NUDE SCENE.


JOHNNY, IT'S A STUDENT FILM.
EXACTLY! IT'S A CAREER-MAKER AND YOU TWO ARE RUINING IT WITH THIS AMATEUR-HOUR CRAP!
WAIT... DID...
DID YOU HEAR THAT?
HSSSSSSSS
THE ONLY THING I HEAR IS MY PARENTS' MONEY BEING FLUSHED AWAY EVERY MINUTE YOU STAND THERE NOT ACTING.
LET'S GO.
NO, I'M SERIOUS. IT'S...
AIEEEEEEEEE--

EEEEEEEEEEP
BEEP
BEEP
THIS... SHOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED.
FORGIVE ME, FATHER.
SINCE ME AND MY...PARTNER REUNITED, THINGS HAVE...
THINGS SHOULD BE PERFECT, BUT SOMETHING'S WRONG.
WE APOLOGIZE...
...AND I SWEAR, I WILL FIX THIS.


WHY DID YOU HURT THAT MAN?
MAN WANTED TO HURT US, EDDIE.
HE WANTED TO HELP US. HE'S A GOOD MAN, A PRIEST. HE'S AN INNOCENT.
WANTED TO PULL US APART.
NO ONE CAN PULL US APART. BUT YOU CAN'T JUST DO THINGS WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE, EVEN IF YOU'RE SCARED.
IT MAKES ME WORRY WHAT ELSE YOU'VE DONE. WHO ELSE YOU--
IT WAS A MONSTER!
JUST TRY TO CALM DOWN.
IT--IT TORE JOHNNY IN HALF. RIPPED AMANDA'S ARM OFF!
IF SOMEONE ELSE IS HURT, YOU HAVE TO TELL US WHERE YOU WERE. WHERE DID THIS HAPPEN?
IN THE SEWERS. BY OUR LADY OF SAINTS.
NO...

THIS "MONSTER"--WHAT DID IT LOOK LIKE?
FANGS. HUGE FANGS. HORRIBLE SLOBBER, RANK BREATH--
UH-HUH. HOW ABOUT WE RUN YOUR BLOOD FOR TOXICOLOGY? JUST AS A PRECAUTION, OF COURSE...

WAS IT HUMANOID? DID IT LOOK LIKE A MAN?
SIR, PLEASE. THIS MAN NEEDS MEDICAL HELP.

DIDN'T YOU HEAR HIM? OTHER PEOPLE MIGHT NEED HELP, TOO.
HOW CAN YOU DISMISS THIS BOY WHEN YOU KNOW THE KINDS OF THINGS THAT ARE OUT THERE?

NOW DESCRIBE THIS THING. CAREFULLY.

I--I DIDN'T GET A GOOD LOOK AT IT BEFORE IT SHATTERED MY CAMERA, BUT IT WAS HUGE--ALMOST SEVEN FEET TALL! IT WALKED ON TWO LEGS, BUT IT WASN'T HUMAN! NOT WITH TEETH LIKE THAT...

WHERE EXACTLY DID THIS HAPPEN?

KID SAID HE CAME IN THROUGH HERE.
GOING TO HUNT THE MONSTER, EDDIE.
GOING TO BE HEROES!
YES. HEROES.
CAN'T FOOL ME, EDDIE. I KNOW THIS FEELING.
RELIEF.
YOU THOUGHT "MONSTER" WAS ME.
YOU DON'T TRUST ME.
I WORRY ABOUT YOU. THE ANGER, THE LASHING OUT--I THOUGHT YOU'D CHANGED, BUT...
...THIS--OUR RELATIONSHIP--IT HAS TO BE DIFFERENT THAN IT WAS LAST TIME.
I DON'T WANT TO BE BLINDSIDED.
BLINDSIDED? LIKE I WAS, WHEN YOU CONVINCED SPIDER-MAN TO TRAP ME?
THAT WAS ONLY SO WE--
WORRY ABOUT TRUSTING YOU, TOO, EDDIE.
FOUND THE MONSTER, EDDIE--BEHIND US!

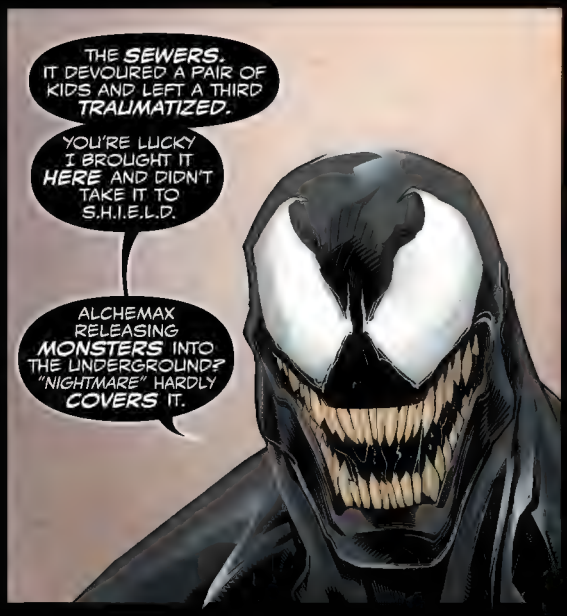
AARH!
STUPID TO COME DOWN HERE AND REMAIN EXPOSED.
AFTER ALL, THERE ARE MONSTERS IN THIS TUNNEL.

ANOTHER MONSTER WITH NO BRAINS AND A TAIL.
EASY ENOUGH WHEN YOU GET THE DROP ON INNOCENT CHILDREN.
BUT WHEN YOU FACE A REAL MONSTER, YOU--

YEEEEHAA!
WE'LL.
KILL.
YOU!
HRRRH.
HRRRH.
HRRRH.
ALCHEMAX
ALCHEMAX
ALCHEMAX, HUH? LET'S PAY THEM A VISIT.

ALCHEMAX
IT'S HARDLY A "PUBLIC RELATIONS NIGHTMARE."
NOBODY OUTSIDE OF THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT EVEN KNEW WE WERE RUNNING THIS PROGRAM.
WE DON'T TALK TO THE PRESS, WE GET AHEAD OF IT BEFORE THEY EVEN FIND OUT.
WHAT DOES TONY STARK DO WHEN THINGS LIKE THIS HAPPEN TO HIM?
...OKAY. WELL, DON'T DO THAT. BUT FIGURE THIS OUT, OKAY?
HOLLY, DO YOU FEEL THAT BREEZE?
IF THE CLIMATE CONTROL IS FREAKING OUT AGAIN BECAUSE OF THE HEAT WEAPON IN R&D, I'M GOING TO--
SORRY ABOUT THAT. WE HAD TO OPEN A WINDOW.

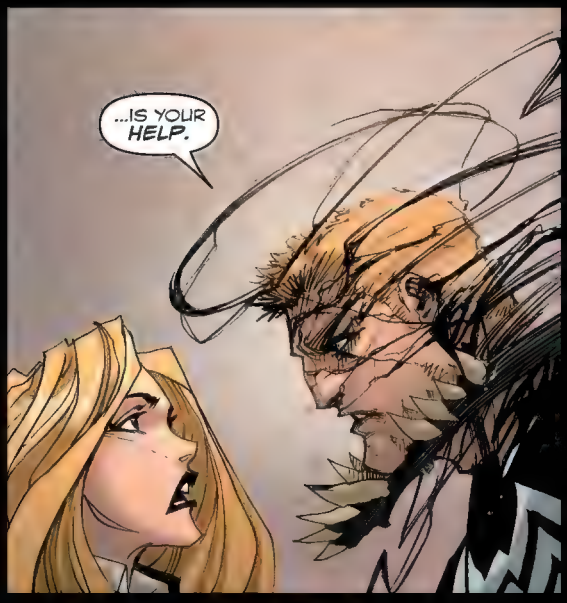
YOU'RE LIZ ALLAN--C.E.O. OF ALCHEMAX? NICE OFFICE.
VENOM, IS IT? I HEARD YOU WERE WORKING FOR THE MILITARY. WHAT HAPPENED? DECIDED TO BREAK BAD?
AGAIN?
SHOULD I CALL SECURITY?
IN A MINUTE, YES.
THWIP
YOU'LL WANT THEM TO HAUL THIS AWAY.
AND WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
YOU TELL ME. IT'S BRANDED WITH YOUR COMPANY'S LOGO.
PERHAPS THIS IS THE "PUBLIC RELATIONS NIGHTMARE" YOU WERE TRYING TO AVOID?
WHERE DID YOU FIND IT?


THE SEWERS. IT DEVOURED A PAIR OF KIDS AND LEFT A THIRD TRAUMATIZED.
YOU'RE LUCKY I BROUGHT IT HERE AND DIDN'T TAKE IT TO S.H.I.E.L.D.
ALCHEMAX RELEASING MONSTERS INTO THE UNDERGROUND? "NIGHTMARE" HARDLY COVERS IT.

PLEASE. YOU'RE A SEVEN-FOOT-TALL MONSTER WHO'S ALSO A WANTED FUGITIVE.
YOU CAME HERE BECAUSE YOU HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO GO. SO, LET'S GET TO THE POINT--

WHAT DO YOU WANT? HUSH MONEY?
MY MERCENARY DAYS ARE DONE. I'M THROUGH SELLING VIOLENCE.

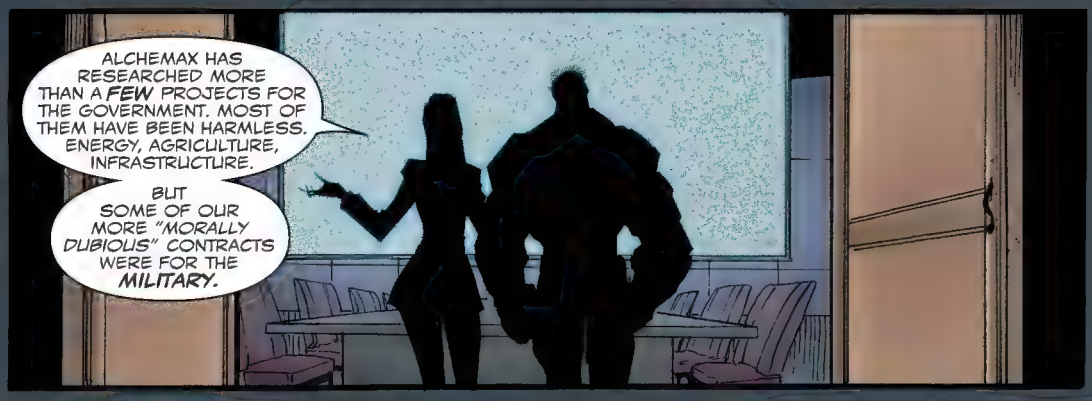
IF YOU'D DONE THIS OUT OF THE KINDNESS OF YOUR HEART, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE SNUCK INTO MY OFFICE WITH IT GRINNING LIKE A CAT. YOU WANT SOMETHING.
WHAT I WANT...WHAT WE WANT...


...IS YOUR HELP.

HELP WITH WHAT?

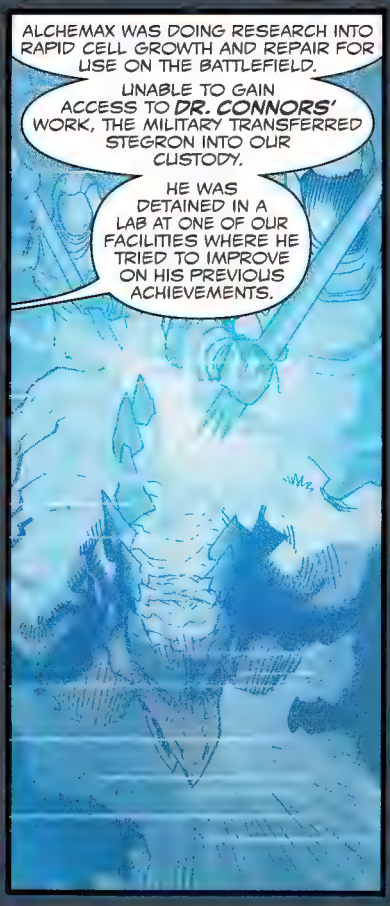
MS. ALLAN. WHILE I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE THE BOSS, AND I'M SIMPLY THE HEAD OF OUR (DRASTICALLY UNDERFUNDED) ASTRO-BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT, I HAVE MANY THINGS THAT REQUIRE MY ATTENTION.
SO WHILE IT'S ABSOLUTELY DELIGHTFUL TO MEET YOUR HUGE, INTIMIDATING, FOR-SOME-REASON-SHIRTLESS BOYFRIEND, I'M WONDERING IF I COULD GET BACK TO MY SPECIMENS.
CHARMING AS EVER, STEVEN, BUT I WOULDN'T HAVE CALLED YOU UP HERE IF IT WEREN'T IMPORTANT.
THIS IS EDDIE.
TODAY, HE FOUND SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO ALCHEMAX, SOMETHING VERY VALUABLE, AND HE BROUGHT IT BACK TO US. IN EXCHANGE, HE NEEDS OUR HELP.
YOUR HELP.
WHAT AM I--
SHH. LIVING IN HIS VEINS IS AN ALIEN ORGANISM CALLED A SYMBIOTE. MYSELF, I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THEM, BUT I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT.
EDDIE THINKS HIS IS SICK AND WE NEED YOU TO FIND OUT IF THAT'S TRUE.
THOUGH I UNDERSTAND IF YOU HAVE TO GET BACK TO YOUR "SOIL."
I ASSUME I'D HAVE...TISSUE TO WORK WITH?
HERE.

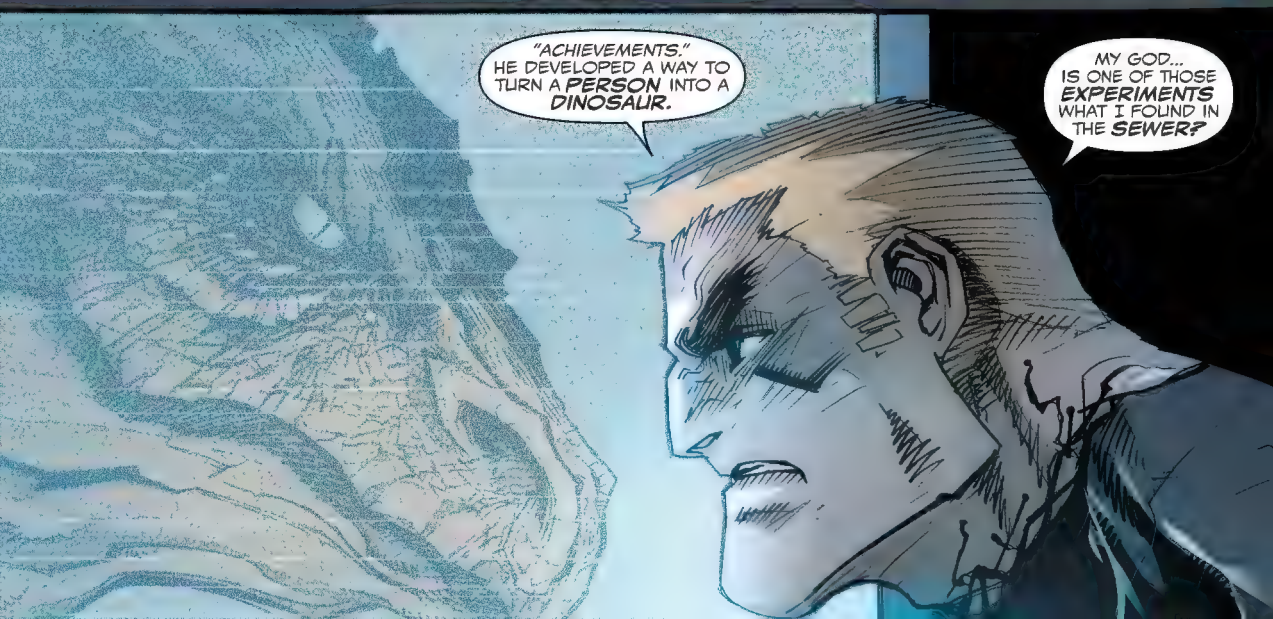
OH, GOD. I'M FINALLY GOING TO GET PUBLISHED.
I'M GONNA NEED THAT BACK.
YES. ER...THAT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE, GIVEN CERTAIN CHEMICAL TELLTALES THAT CAN ONLY BE READ--
I SAID...I'M GOING TO NEED THAT BACK.
UH. RIGHT. OF COURSE.
THANK YOU, STEVE. NOW YOU CAN GET TO WORK SO EDDIE AND I CAN TALK ABOUT WHAT HE'S GOING TO DO FOR US.
DIDN'T I ALREADY DO SOMETHING FOR YOU? I BROUGHT BACK YOUR MONSTER.
OH, YOU'RE GOING TO BRING BACK A LOT MORE THAN THAT.

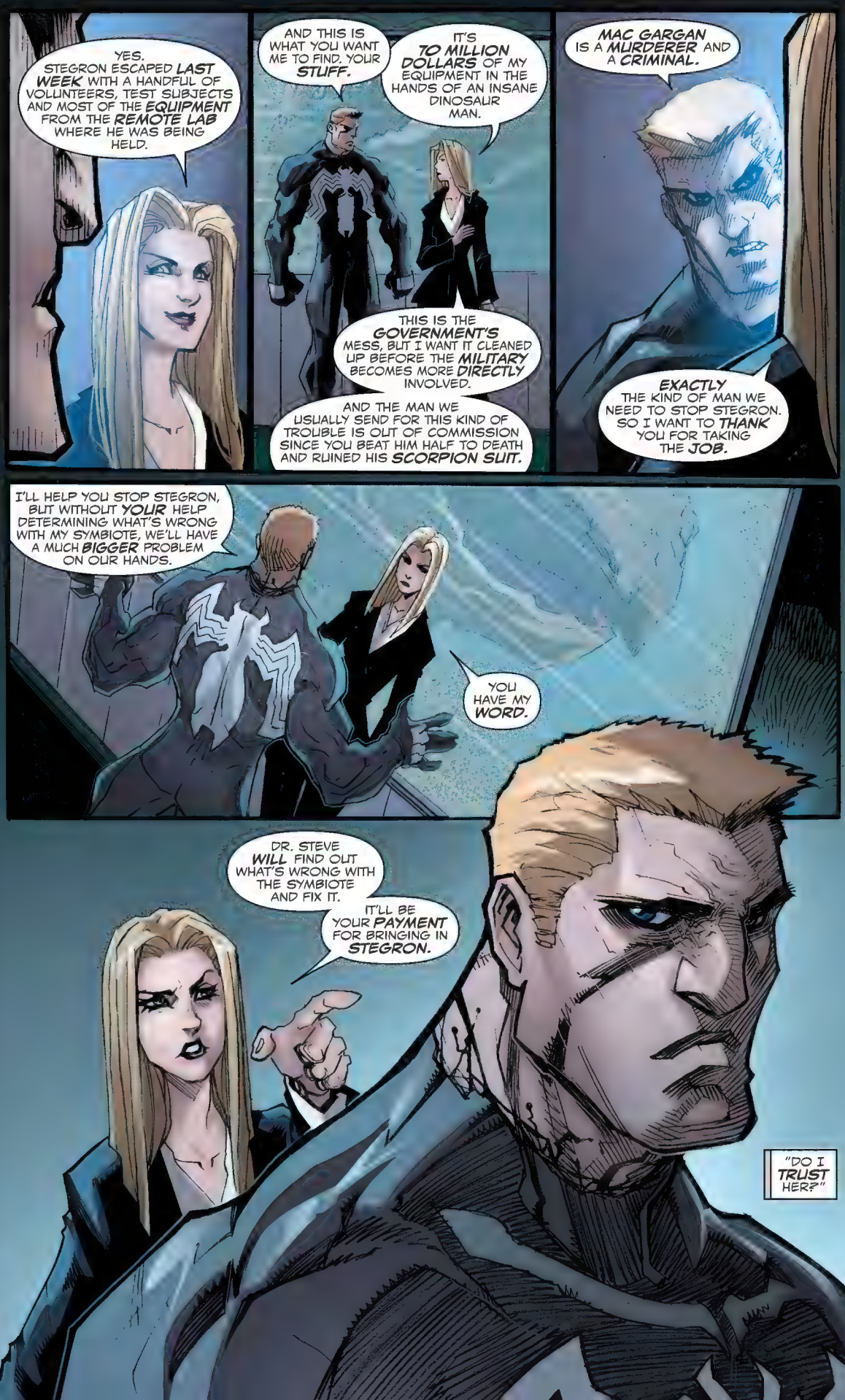

ALCHEMAX HAS RESEARCHED MORE THAN A FEW PROJECTS FOR THE GOVERNMENT. MOST OF THEM HAVE BEEN HARMLESS. ENERGY, AGRICULTURE, INFRASTRUCTURE.
BUT SOME OF OUR MORE "MORALLY DUBIOUS" CONTRACTS WERE FOR THE MILITARY.

THIS IS STEGRON.
USING A MODIFIED VERSION OF THE SERUM THAT CHANGED CURT CONNORS INTO THE LIZARD, HE TRANSFORMED HIMSELF INTO A DINOSAUR MAN.

HE TURNED HIMSELF INTO A DINOSAUR AND CALLED HIMSELF STEGRON?
ACTUALLY, HIS NAME WAS ALREADY DR. VINCENT STEGRON.
HIS NAME WAS VINCENT STEGRON AND HE TURNED HIMSELF INTO--
FOCUS UP.


ALCHEMAX WAS DOING RESEARCH INTO RAPID CELL GROWTH AND REPAIR FOR USE ON THE BATTLEFIELD.
UNABLE TO GAIN ACCESS TO DR. CONNORS' WORK, THE MILITARY TRANSFERRED STEGRON INTO OUR CUSTODY.
HE WAS DETAINED IN A LAB AT ONE OF OUR FACILITIES WHERE HE TRIED TO IMPROVE ON HIS PREVIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS.


"ACHIEVEMENTS." HE DEVELOPED A WAY TO TURN A PERSON INTO A DINOSAUR.
MY GOD... IS ONE OF THOSE EXPERIMENTS WHAT I FOUND IN THE SEWER?


YES. STEGRON ESCAPED LAST WEEK WITH A HANDFUL OF VOLUNTEERS, TEST SUBJECTS AND MOST OF THE EQUIPMENT FROM THE REMOTE LAB WHERE HE WAS BEING HELD.
AND THIS IS WHAT YOU WANT ME TO FIND. YOUR STUFF.
IT'S 70 MILLION DOLLARS OF MY EQUIPMENT IN THE HANDS OF AN INSANE DINOSAUR MAN.
THIS IS THE GOVERNMENT'S MESS, BUT I WANT IT CLEANED UP BEFORE THE MILITARY BECOMES MORE DIRECTLY INVOLVED.
AND THE MAN WE USUALLY SEND FOR THIS KIND OF TROUBLE IS OUT OF COMMISSION SINCE YOU BEAT HIM HALF TO DEATH AND RUINED HIS SCORPION SUIT.
MAC GARGAN IS A MURDERER AND A CRIMINAL.
EXACTLY THE KIND OF MAN WE NEED TO STOP STEGRON. SO I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE JOB.
I'LL HELP YOU STOP STEGRON, BUT WITHOUT YOUR HELP DETERMINING WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY SYMBIOTE, WE'LL HAVE A MUCH BIGGER PROBLEM ON OUR HANDS.
YOU HAVE MY WORD.
DR. STEVE WILL FIND OUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE SYMBIOTE AND FIX IT.
IT'LL BE YOUR PAYMENT FOR BRINGING IN STEGRON.
"DO I TRUST HER?"

WE HAVE LITTLE CHOICE. LIZ ALLAN IS A SHREWD WOMAN, BUT SHE'S ONE OF THE ONLY PEOPLE IN NEW YORK WITH THE RESOURCES TO HELP FIGURE OUT WHAT'S MAKING US SO...ANGRY.
AND SHE WON'T DOUBLE-CROSS US. WE'RE HER COMPANY'S ONLY CHANCE AT FINDING STEGRON AND PREVENTING ANY FURTHER LOSS OF LIFE.
THAT ALONE IS REASON ENOUGH TO HELP HER.
BESIDES...I FELT YOUR RUSH OF EXCITEMENT WHEN WE SAW THE FOOTAGE OF STEGRON.
FINALLY, SOMETHING TO TAKE OUT YOUR RAGE ON.
OOOOH. SMELLS... FETID.
WE CAN TAKE CARE OF THIS "STEGRON" IDIOT AND THE REMAINING SAD FREAKS HE HAS WITH HIM EASILY.
WHAT IS...?

OH.
THIS IS BAD.
THERE MUST BE... HUNDREDS.
WE CAN'T HOPE TO TAKE THEM ALONE.
WE GOTTA RETREAT, THINK OF A NEW PLAN--

SCKEEEEEEEEEE!

AARRRGGG!

WHAT'S THIS? AN INTRUDER!

NO, MY CHILDREN. DON'T KILL IT.

BRING HIM FORWARD. YOU SEE WHAT THE MAMMALS DO? HOW THEY SLINK AND SPY?

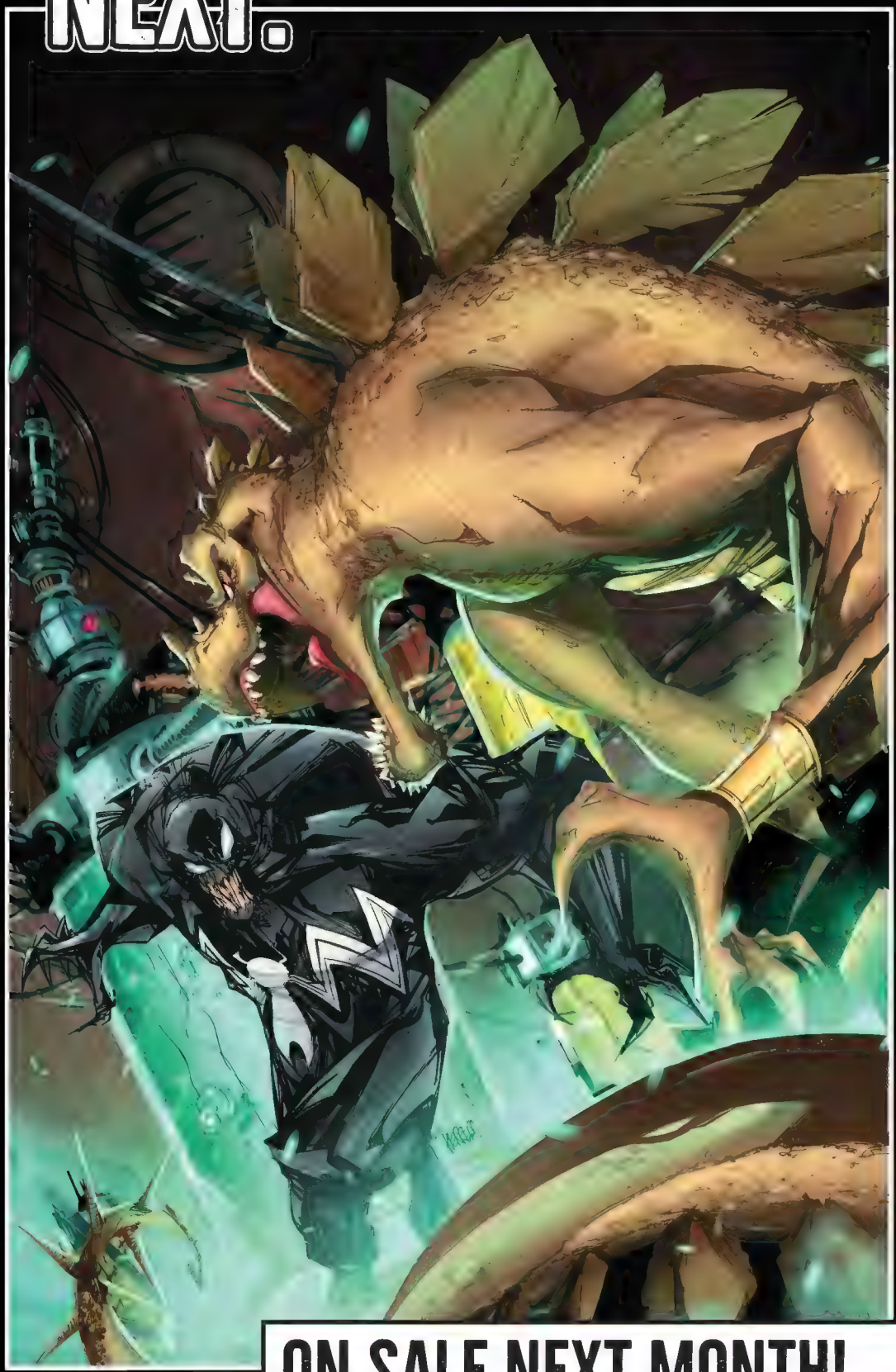
THEY ARE NOT PROUD AND BOLD AS WE! THEY DO NOT HAVE THUNDER IN THEIR LUNGS!

THEY DO NOT BELONG IN THE NEW WORLD THAT IS ABOUT TO BE BORN--THE WORLD WHERE YOU, MY PEOPLE, WILL CRUSH THE MAMMALS BENEATH OUR FEET AND BETWEEN OUR JAWS.

THE WORLD THAT STEGRON, THE DINOSAUR MAN, WILL BRING, BORN IN BLOOD AND TERROR!

TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT:



ON SALE NEXT MONTH!

MARVEL
152
RATED T+
COSTA
SANDOVAL
ALMARA
VENOM
THE LAND BEFORE CRIME
CONTINUES!

YEARS AGO, PETER PARKER (A.K.A. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN) ACCIDENTALLY BONDED WITH AN ALIEN BEING CALLED A SYMBIOTE. WHEN PETER REALIZED THE COSTUME WAS ACTUALLY AN AGGRESSIVE LIVING ORGANISM, HE REJECTED IT. BUT DURING THEIR TIME TOGETHER, THE SYMBIOTE HAD ACCESS TO SPIDER-MAN'S GENETIC CODE, AND NOW GRANTS WHOMEVER IT BONDS WITH SKILLS SIMILAR TO HIS: WALL-CRAWLING, THE POWER TO GENERATE BIOORGANIC WEBBING, AND UNIQUE ABILITIES TO SHAPE-SHIFT AND BECOME INVISIBLE, TURNING THEM INTO...

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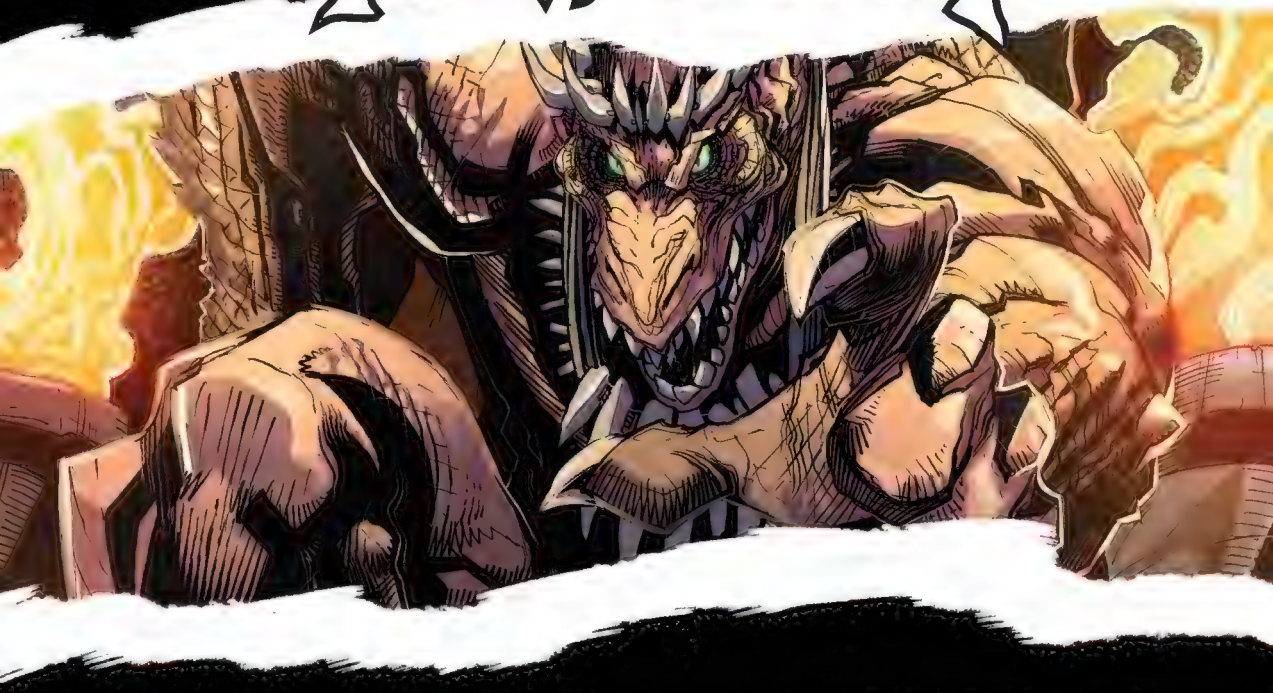

EDDIE BROCK AND THE VENOM SYMBIOTE HAVE BEEN REUNITED, BUT BOTH OF THEM HAVE CHANGED SINCE THEY LAST WERE TOGETHER. VENOM STILL WANTS TO BE A HERO, BUT HAS FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO CONTAIN ITS MORE VIOLENT IMPULSES. IT HAS EVEN GONE SO FAR AS TO ATTACK PEOPLE IT PERCEIVES AS A THREAT WHILE EDDIE HAS BEEN SLEEPING.

WHEN EDDIE OVERHEARD ABOUT A SYMBIOTE-LIKE MONSTER ATTACK, HIS INVESTIGATION LED HIM TO THE SEWERS, WHERE HE FOUGHT A DINOSAUR BRANDED WITH THE LOGO FOR ALCHEMAX. USING THIS DISCOVERY AS LEVERAGE, EDDIE APPEALED TO LIZ ALLAN, ALCHEMAX'S C.E.O., AND OFFERED TO BRING STEGRON AND HIS EXPERIMENTS BACK TO THE COMPANY IN EXCHANGE FOR A CURE FOR HIS AILING SYMBIOTE.

THE LAND BEFORE CRIME PART TWO

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YEARS AGO...
GRAAAAH!
KING OF THE DINOSAURS!
HEY, EDDIE SPAGHETTI. WHATCHA DOIN'?
GIVE THAT BACK!
PFFF. T-REXES ARE LAME, SPAGHETTI.
SPINOSAURUS WAS WAY BIGGER AND STRONGER!
HEY, STOP IT! YOU'RE BREAKING THEM!
EDDIE!
NEVER GET INTO A DINOSAUR FIGHT, SPAGHETTI. YOU'RE JUST A WIMP!
EDDIE, HAVE TO WAKE UP!
TOLD ME NEVER TO FIGHT WHILE YOU WERE ASLEEP.
MMPHH.
WHASSSS HAPNING?
BIG FIGHT, EDDIE!

NOW.

BIG FIGHT WITH DINOSAURS!

HOLD HIM, MY CHILDREN.
WE MUST DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH HIM.
SHALL WE BLESS HIM WITH THE CHANGE?
OR IS HE MEAT?
MEAT!
MEAT!
CHANGE!

AH, MY FOOLISH, INDECISIVE CHILDREN. WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITHOUT STEGRON AS YOUR GOD?
BRING HIM TO MY FEET.
YOU'RE NOT JUST A MAN...YOU HAVE SOME CREATURE ATTACHED TO YOU.
IT REEKS OF THE PRIMORDIAL.
YOU MUST BE STEGRON.
LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO THESE PEOPLE-- YOU'VE TURNED THEM INTO MONSTERS!
THESE AREN'T MONSTERS, MAMMAL.
THEY ARE MY FOLLOWERS. MY CHILDREN.

THESE WERE MISERABLE WRETCHES-- MEN, WOMEN, DOGS, RATS-- IGNORED BY YOUR SOCIETY, HOMELESS AND SCORNED.
BUT I HAVE CHANGED THEM, SAVED THEM, AND IN DINOSAUR SOCIETY, ALL ARE EQUAL!
EXCEPT YOU, WHO GETS TO BE THEIR GOD.
YOUR GOD TOO, WHEN THE CHANGE IS UPON YOU.
I'M INTERESTED TO SEE WHAT IT WILL DO TO YOUR PASSENGER.
WE'LL KNOW SOON ENOUGH.

NO!
IT'S OUT OF CONTROL! KILL IT!
THWIP
THWIP
KRNCH
OH, NO. YOU FOOL--!

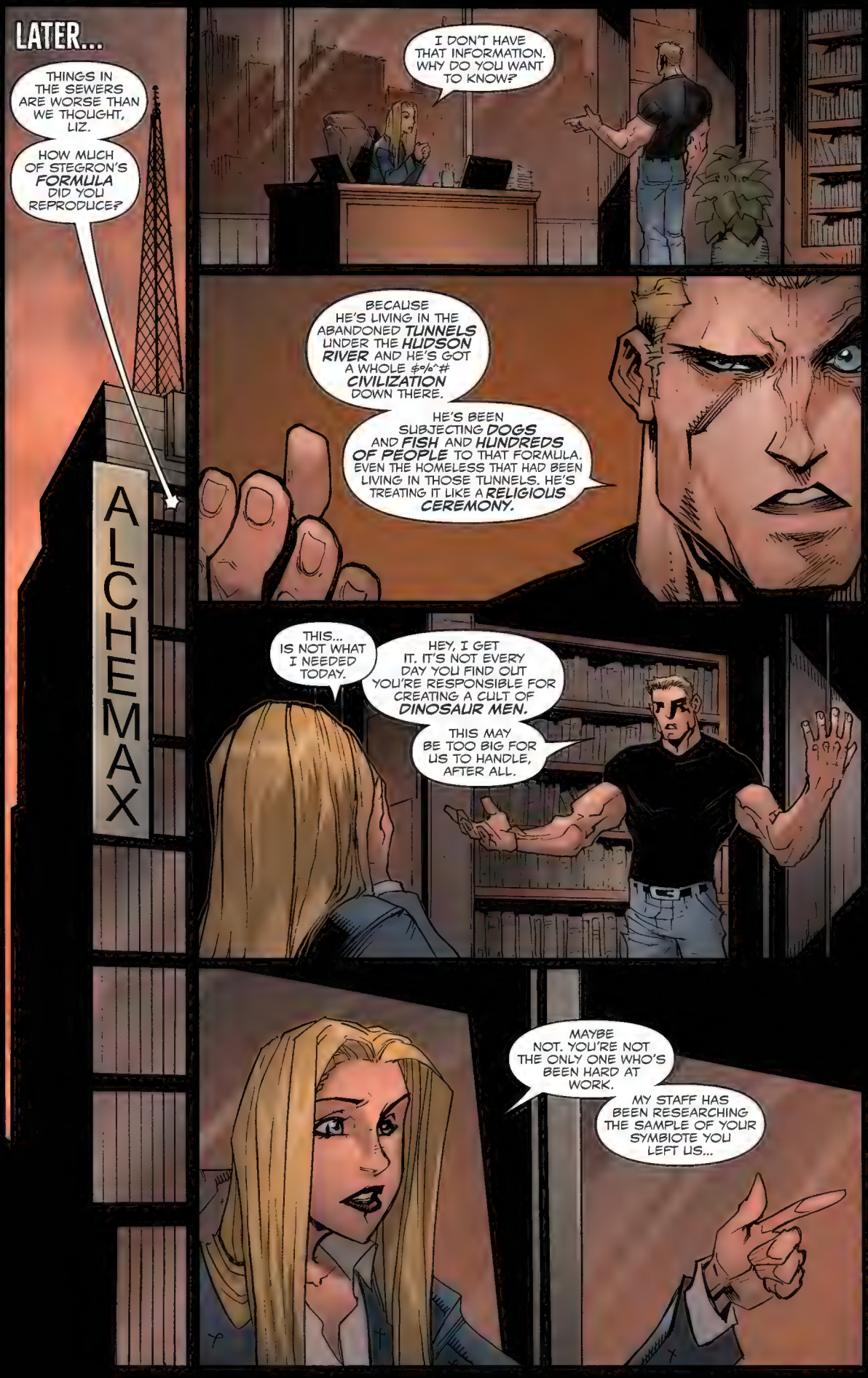
CRACK
CRACK
SHORE UP THAT RUPTURE IN THE WALL, MY CHILDREN! IT'LL SPOIL EVERTHING!

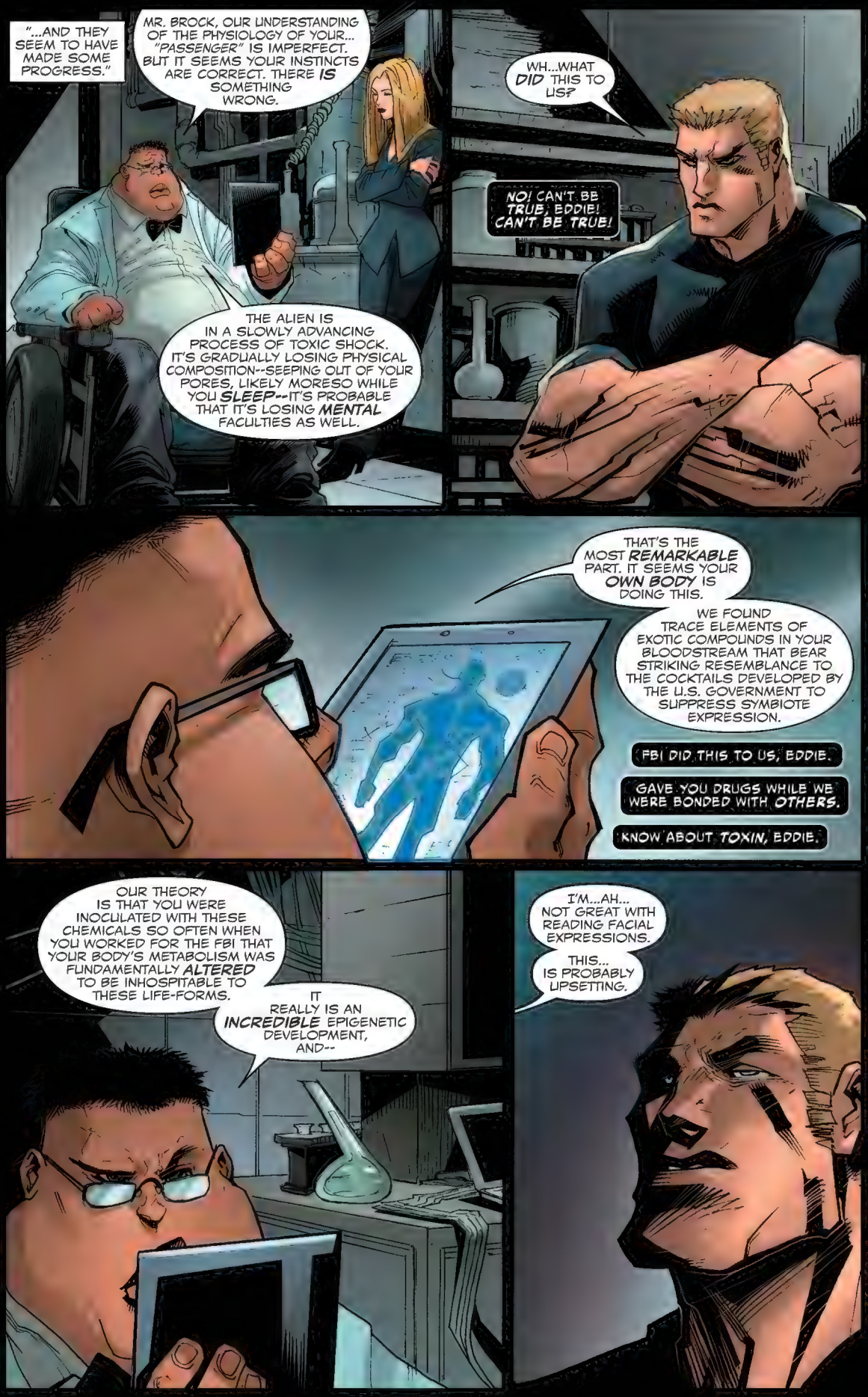
HERE THEY COME, EDDIE!
EDDIE, LOOK OUT!
EDDIE, BEH--

IS HE DEAD?
MAN, I HOPE HE'S NOT DEAD. THAT WOULD BE GROSS.
NOT DEAD. WAKE UP, EDDIE.
NNGH.
-COUGH-
-COUGH-
HARD TO BREATHE, EDDIE. NEED TO GET THE WATER OUT.
NO! DON'T MAKE ME PU--
HURRGH!
AW, MAN, THIS IS GROSS ANYWAY.
WHAT THE--?

YOU'RE BIG...BUT WE'VE FOUGHT BIGGER.
WHOA, HEY. LET'S NOT FIGHT!
UNLESS YOU'RE A BAD GUY. THEN WE'LL STOMP YOU.
"WE"?
YEAH. WE'RE MOON GIRL AND DEVIL DINOSAUR.
DOING SCIENCE AND CRUSHING BAD GUYS.

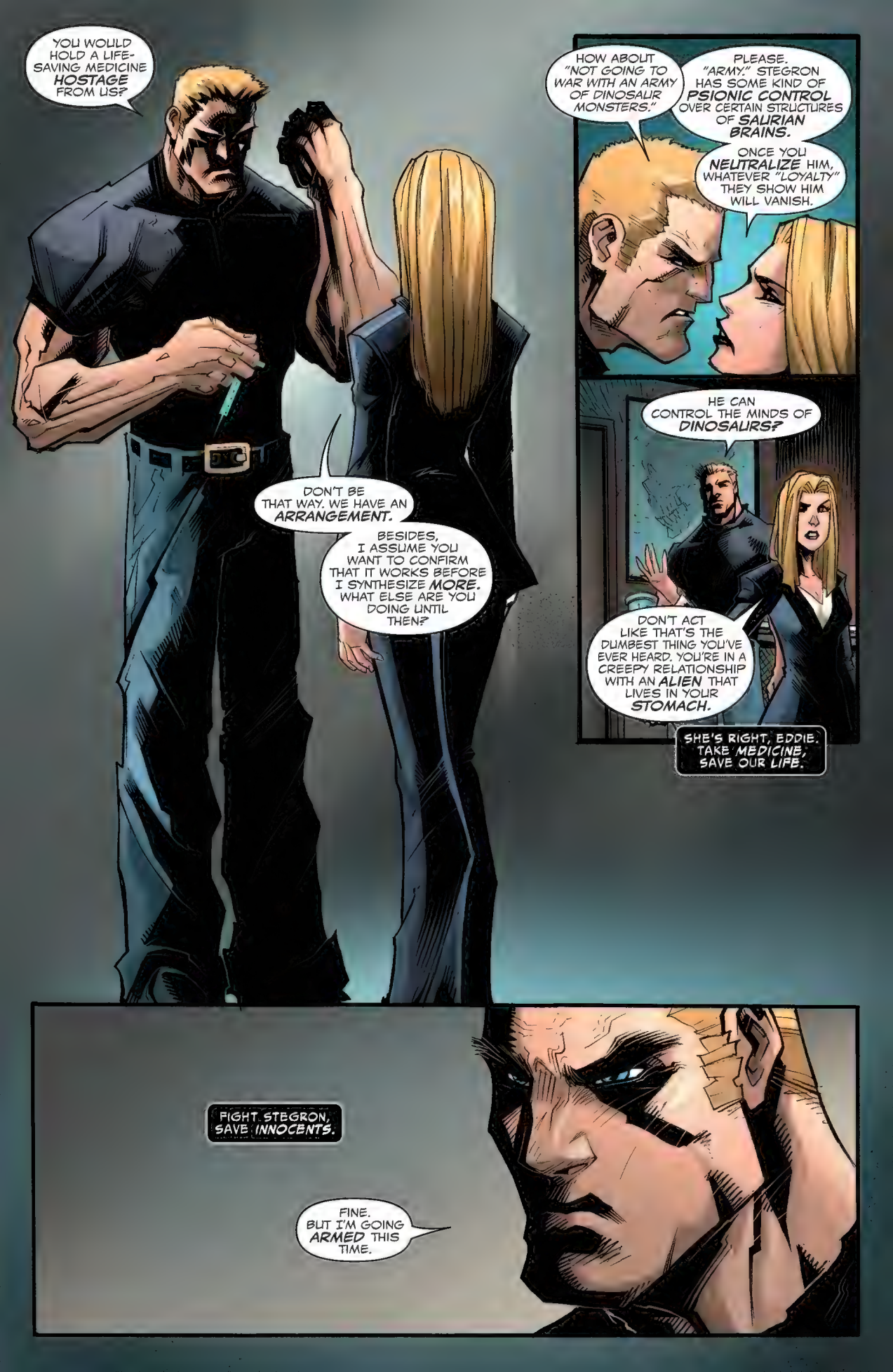
AND WHICH OF THOSE WERE YOU DOING OUT HERE TONIGHT?
BOTH, I THINK.
DEVIL DINOSAUR CAUGHT SOME KIND OF SCENT, SO I FOLLOWED HIM HERE, LOOKING FOR WHATEVER MADE HIM SO UNEASY.
CREATURES IN THE SEWER...?
I'M TAKING CARE OF IT.
PFFFT. LOOKS MORE LIKE THEY'RE TAKING CARE OF YOU.
BEST TO GO BACK TO YOUR STUDIES, GIRL. AND KEEP A BETTER LEASH ON YOUR DINOSAUR. THERE ARE NO MORE MONSTERS HERE.


LATER...
THINGS IN THE SEWERS ARE WORSE THAN WE THOUGHT, LIZ.
HOW MUCH OF STEGRON'S FORMULA DID YOU REPRODUCE?
ALCHEMAX
I DON'T HAVE THAT INFORMATION. WHY DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?
BECAUSE HE'S LIVING IN THE ABANDONED TUNNELS UNDER THE HUDSON RIVER AND HE'S GOT A WHOLE $%^# CIVILIZATION DOWN THERE.
HE'S BEEN SUBJECTING DOGS AND FISH AND HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE TO THAT FORMULA. EVEN THE HOMELESS THAT HAD BEEN LIVING IN THOSE TUNNELS. HE'S TREATING IT LIKE A RELIGIOUS CEREMONY.
THIS... IS NOT WHAT I NEEDED TODAY.
HEY, I GET IT. IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOU FIND OUT YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING A CULT OF DINOSAUR MEN.
THIS MAY BE TOO BIG FOR US TO HANDLE, AFTER ALL.
MAYBE NOT. YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO'S BEEN HARD AT WORK.
MY STAFF HAS BEEN RESEARCHING THE SAMPLE OF YOUR SYMBIOTE YOU LEFT US...

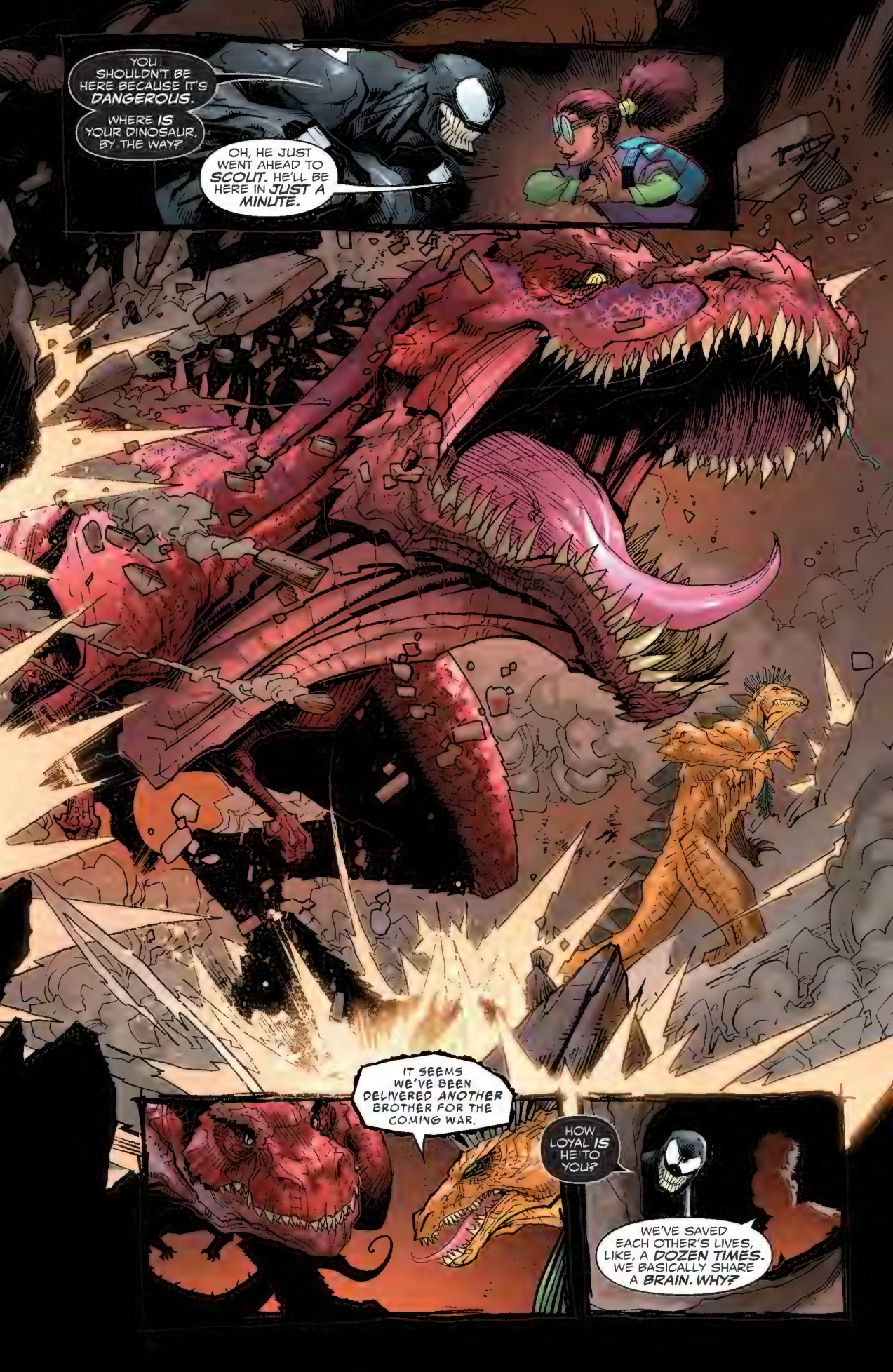

"...AND THEY SEEM TO HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS."
MR. BROCK, OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE PHYSIOLOGY OF YOUR... "PASSENGER" IS IMPERFECT. BUT IT SEEMS YOUR INSTINCTS ARE CORRECT. THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG.
THE ALIEN IS IN A SLOWLY ADVANCING PROCESS OF TOXIC SHOCK. IT'S GRADUALLY LOSING PHYSICAL COMPOSITION--SEEPING OUT OF YOUR PORES, LIKELY MORESO WHILE YOU SLEEP--IT'S PROBABLE THAT IT'S LOSING MENTAL FACULTIES AS WELL.
WH...WHAT DID THIS TO US?
NO! CAN'T BE TRUE, EDDIE! CAN'T BE TRUE!
THAT'S THE MOST REMARKABLE PART. IT SEEMS YOUR OWN BODY IS DOING THIS.
WE FOUND TRACE ELEMENTS OF EXOTIC COMPOUNDS IN YOUR BLOODSTREAM THAT BEAR STRIKING RESEMBLANCE TO THE COCKTAILS DEVELOPED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO SUPPRESS SYMBIOTE EXPRESSION.
FBI DID THIS TO US, EDDIE.
GAVE YOU DRUGS WHILE WE WERE BONDED WITH OTHERS.
KNOW ABOUT TOXIN, EDDIE.
OUR THEORY IS THAT YOU WERE INOCULATED WITH THESE CHEMICALS SO OFTEN WHEN YOU WORKED FOR THE FBI THAT YOUR BODY'S METABOLISM WAS FUNDAMENTALLY ALTERED TO BE INHOSPITABLE TO THESE LIFE-FORMS.
IT REALLY IS AN INCREDIBLE EPIGENETIC DEVELOPMENT, AND--
I'M...AH... NOT GREAT WITH READING FACIAL EXPRESSIONS.
THIS... IS PROBABLY UPSETTING.

NO!
YOU'RE LYING TO USSSS!
IF...IF WE HAD ACCESS TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S DATA ON SYMBIOTES, WE COULD GIVE YOU A MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS, BUT--BUT--
EDDIE! THAT'S ENOUGH.
IF YOU KILL HIM, HE CAN'T SAVE YOUR LIFE!
I'M LISTENING.

STEVEN WAS ABLE TO SYNTHESIZE THIS. WE THINK IT'S THE FIRST STEP TOWARD A CURE.
IT SHOULD BALANCE OUT YOUR METABOLISM, STOP IT FROM ATTACKING THE SYMBIOTE AND ALLOW YOUR BODY TO HEAL.
THAT, OR IT'LL MELT YOUR INSIDES.
YOU MADE THIS... FOR US?
IT SOMEHOW SEEMED IN EVERYONE'S BEST INTEREST THAT YOU NOT TURN INTO A DEGENERATING, OUT-OF-CONTROL PSYCHOTIC.
TREATMENT ISN'T PERMANENT. YOU'LL HAVE TO REAPPLY EVERY 36 TO 48 HOURS.
WE WILL...
YOU'LL GIVE ME A SUPPLY TO TAKE HOME?
...AFTER YOU BRING IN STEGRON.


YOU WOULD HOLD A LIFE-SAVING MEDICINE HOSTAGE FROM US?
DON'T BE THAT WAY. WE HAVE AN ARRANGEMENT.
BESIDES, I ASSUME YOU WANT TO CONFIRM THAT IT WORKS BEFORE I SYNTHESIZE MORE. WHAT ELSE ARE YOU DOING UNTIL THEN?
HOW ABOUT "NOT GOING TO WAR WITH AN ARMY OF DINOSAUR MONSTERS."
PLEASE. "ARMY." STEGRON HAS SOME KIND OF PSIONIC CONTROL OVER CERTAIN STRUCTURES OF SAURIAN BRAINS.
ONCE YOU NEUTRALIZE HIM, WHATEVER "LOYALTY" THEY SHOW HIM WILL VANISH.
HE CAN CONTROL THE MINDS OF DINOSAURS?
DON'T ACT LIKE THAT'S THE DUMBEST THING YOU'VE EVER HEARD. YOU'RE IN A CREEPY RELATIONSHIP WITH AN ALIEN THAT LIVES IN YOUR STOMACH.
SHE'S RIGHT, EDDIE. TAKE MEDICINE, SAVE OUR LIFE.
FIGHT STEGRON, SAVE INNOCENTS.
FINE. BUT I'M GOING ARMED THIS TIME.

LATER...
MY BRIDES, COME AND WITNESS!
YOU SEE THIS FILTHY, REEKING CREATURE? THE FUR BRISTLING FROM ITS TENDER FLESH? THE AWFUL STINK OF ITS HOT BLOOD?
WE OFFER HIM THE BLESSING OF THE WATER OF LIFE THAT HE MIGHT BE CHANGED...
HEAR THEM! THE BIRTH CRIES OF A CHILD FOR A NEW AND GLORIOUS AGE!
MEERROOOWWW!
HE SURE DOES LIKE TO TALK A LOT.
YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE.
GAH!
WHY NOT? BECAUSE YOU LIED TO ME ABOUT WHAT WAS DOWN HERE?
I KNOW HOW TO RECOGNIZE AN ICHTHYOSAUR WHEN I SEE IT. THERE'S OTHER DINOSAURS DOWN HERE! THAT'S THE SCENT DEVIL DINOSAUR WAS FOLLOWING.


YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE BECAUSE IT'S DANGEROUS.
WHERE IS YOUR DINOSAUR, BY THE WAY?
OH, HE JUST WENT AHEAD TO SCOUT. HE'LL BE HERE IN JUST A MINUTE.
IT SEEMS WE'VE BEEN DELIVERED ANOTHER BROTHER FOR THE COMING WAR.
HOW LOYAL IS HE TO YOU?
WE'VE SAVED EACH OTHER'S LIVES, LIKE, A DOZEN TIMES. WE BASICALLY SHARE A BRAIN. WHY?

RRRRRR!
HAHA HA!
BECAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE DEVIL'S SHARING IT WITH SOMEONE ELSE NOW.
UHHH...
TO BE CONTINUED...

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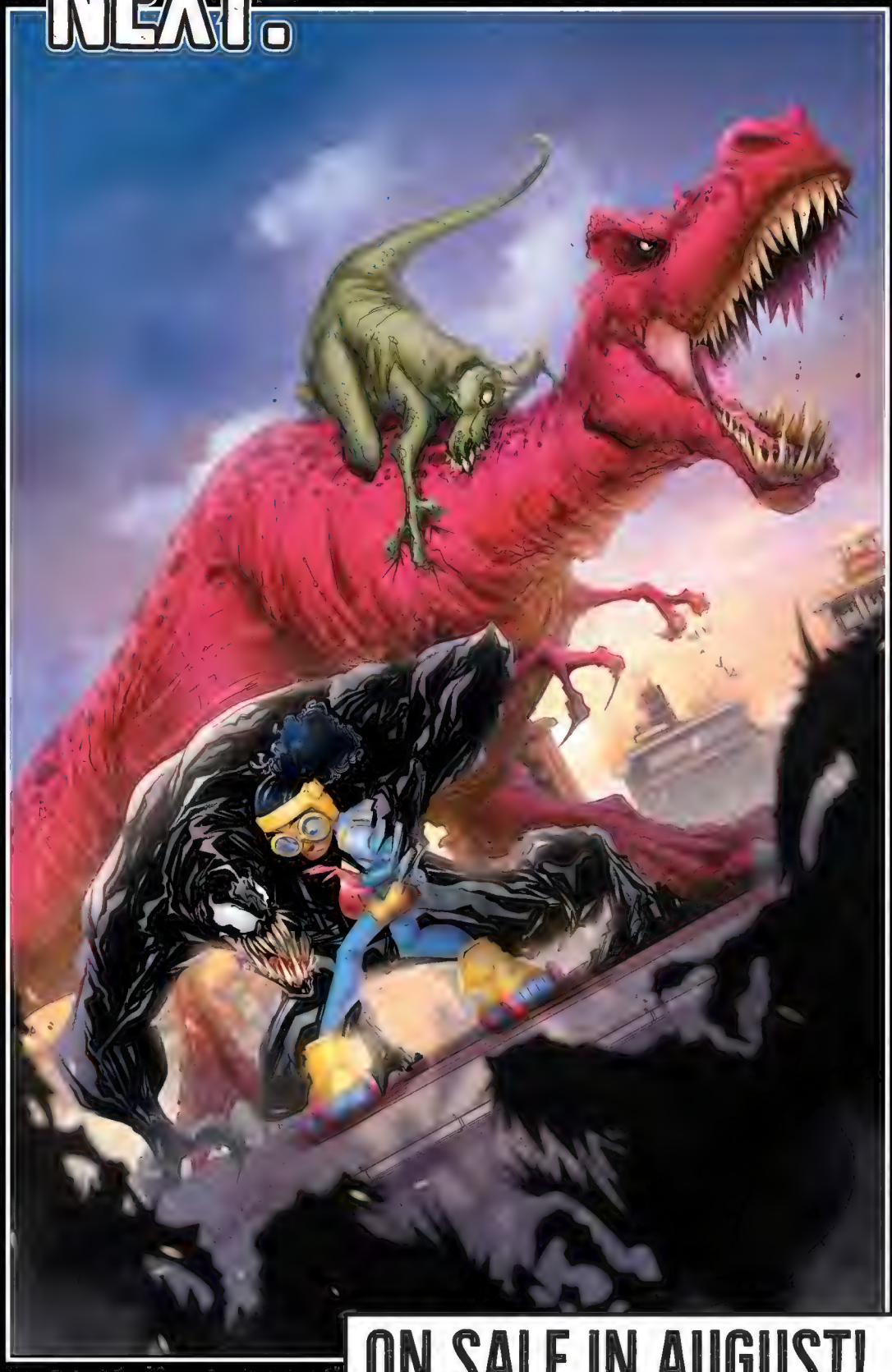

ON SALE IN AUGUST!

MARVEL
153
RATED T+
VENOM
COSTA
SANDOVAL
ALMARA
THE
LAND
BEFORE CRIME
CONCLUDES!

YEARS AGO, PETER PARKER (A.K.A. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN) ACCIDENTALLY BONDED WITH AN ALIEN BEING CALLED A SYMBIOTE. WHEN PETER REALIZED THE COSTUME WAS ACTUALLY AN AGGRESSIVE LIVING ORGANISM, HE REJECTED IT. BUT DURING THEIR TIME TOGETHER, THE SYMBIOTE HAD ACCESS TO SPIDER-MAN'S GENETIC CODE, AND NOW GRANTS WHOMEVER IT BONDS WITH SKILLS SIMILAR TO HIS: WALL-CRAWLING, THE POWER TO GENERATE BIOORGANIC WEBBING, AND UNIQUE ABILITIES TO SHAPE-SHIFT AND BECOME INVISIBLE, TURNING THEM INTO...

VENOM

EDDIE BROCK AND THE VENOM SYMBIOTE HAVE BEEN REUNITED, BUT THE SYMBIOTE IS NOT WELL. AFTER A TIME WITH AN ABUSIVE HOST, IT CANNOT CONTROL ITS VIOLENT IMPULSES AND HAS BEGUN TO HURT INNOCENTS IT PERCEIVES AS A THREAT TO ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH EDDIE.

AFTER A MONSTER ATTACK IN HIS NEIGHBORHOOD, EDDIE FEARED THE SYMBIOTE WAS RESPONSIBLE. AN INVESTIGATION LED HIM TO THE SEWERS, WHERE HE FOUND A HUMANOID DINOSAUR BRANDED WITH THE ALCHEMAX LOGO. EDDIE RETURNED THE CREATURE TO ALCHEMAX'S C.E.O., LIZ ALLAN, WHO REVEALED THAT IT WAS ONCE A HUMAN WHO HAD BEEN SUBJECTED TO EXPERIMENTS BY *STEGRON THE DINOSAUR MAN* WHILE IN THE COMPANY'S CUSTODY.

EDDIE AND LIZ STRUCK A BARGAIN--IN EXCHANGE FOR VENOM'S HELP CAPTURING STEGRON AND THE CREATURES IN THE SEWER, LIZ WILL USE ALCHEMAX'S RESOURCES TO FIND A CURE FOR THE AILING SYMBIOTE.

BUT WHEN HE WENT TO COLLECT STEGRON AND HIS SUBJECTS, VENOM FOUND *MOON GIRL AND DEVIL DINOSAUR* ALREADY ON THE CASE!

THE LAND BEFORE CRIME CONCLUSION

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:HUFF:
:HUFF:
HEY! HEY, LITTLE GIRL! THIS AIN'T A PLAYGROUND!
YOU SHOULDN'T BE DOWN THERE.
IT'S NOT SAFE FOR LITTLE KIDS!
YOU GUYS HAVE NO IDEA!
YOU'VE GOT TO GET OU--

ROAAAAARRR!

WE PROBABLY SHOULDN'T BE HERE.

YEAH... **DEFINITELY** NOT SAFE.

DEVIL! IF YOU'RE STILL IN THERE, YOU'VE GOTTA **STOP** THIS!

IF YOU DON'T **CALM DOWN**, PEOPLE ARE GONNA GET **HURT!**

RAAAAA--

HEY!
WE TOLD YOU IT WASN'T SAFE TO BRING YOUR DINOSAUR INTO THE SEWERS!
WAIT!
ROOOAAAR!
NO, MY PET.

THE TIME HAS NOT YET COME TO MAKE OURSELVES KNOWN TO THE WARMBLOODS.
BUT SOON-- WHEN I AM COME UNTO MY KINGDOM...
...WE WILL RIDE FORTH IN GLORY, AMONG ALL OUR NEW SUBJECTS...
...AND YOU WILL BE MY STEED.

HEY, STOP!
WE HAVE TO GO BACK! WE HAVE TO GO BACK FOR DEVIL DINOSAUR!
YOUR DINOSAUR TRIED TO HAVE YOU AS A SNACK.
AN ARMY OF DINOSAUR-MEN LED BY A CRAZED MESSIAH WITH A TYRANNOSAUR AT HIS COMMAND. THIS HAS GOTTEN TOO BIG FOR US.
I COULD PUT IN AN ANONYMOUS CALL TO THE AVENGERS, MAYBE. ALCHEMAX WON'T BE HAPPY BUT I CAN STEAL WHAT I--
HEY!
HE'S DEVIL DINOSAUR, NOT A "TYRANNOSAUR." HE'S MY FRIEND AND YOU CAN'T CALL THE AVENGERS. THEY'LL HURT HIM!
OR THEY'LL TAKE HIM AWAY!
YOU KNOW WHAT? FINE. GO. I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP! I CAN GET DEVIL BACK MYSELF.
I'M SORRY, BUT DEVIL'S NOT YOUR FRIEND ANYMORE. STEGRON HAS CONTROL OVER OTHER DINOSAURS, INCLUDING YOURS.

WELL, IF HE'S NOT IN CONTROL OF HIMSELF, THEN HE IS STILL MY FRIEND. HE MUST BE FIGHTING WHAT'S HAPPENING.
WE HAVE TO SAVE HIM. HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG! IF IT'S A TELEPATHIC THING, MAYBE I COULD THROW TOGETHER A TRANSMITTER THAT COULD BROADCAST AN INTERFERENCE PATTERN.
I THINK I'VE GOT AN OLD MICROWAVE...
WHAT FREQUENCIES DO DINOSAUR BRAINS WORK ON...?
STEGRON ISN'T GOING TO WAIT FOR US TO BUILD SOMETHING TO STOP HIM--HE'S GOING TO DUMP HIS DINOSAUR SERUM INTO THE WATER MAINS AS SOON AS HE CAN.
THEN WE NEED TO GO AND FIGURE SOMETHING OUT NOW.
EDDIE...
BUT WE WON'T HURT HIM, RIGHT? IF YOU HAD A FRIEND WHO WASN'T HIMSELF, YOU'D DO EVERYTHING YOU COULD TO HELP HIM.
KNOW HOW WE CAN BREAK THE MIND CONTROL, EDDIE.
WOULDN'T YOU?
CAN DO IT, EDDIE. YOU KNOW I CAN DO IT.
I...

-SIGH-
I THINK I KNOW HOW TO HELP YOUR... FRIEND.
REALLY?!
SO... THEN...
...DO WE GET TO SWING BACK THERE?
HAHAHA! THIS IS AWESOME!

TONIGHT, AS THIS RABBIT WARREN SLEEPS, WE WILL TRANSFUSE THEIR PIPES WITH THE WATER OF LIFE!
WHEN THE WARMBLOODS WAKE, THEY WILL DRINK IT! THEY WILL BATHE IN IT! AND THEN THE CHANGE WILL BE UPON THEM!
MAKE SURE THE SEALS ARE TIGHT! WE CAN'T AFFORD TO SPILL A SINGLE DROP!
CAREFUL WITH THE VATS!
BRAINS THE SIZE OF A PEA...
SCRAAAAAPE
DON'T BECOME DISTRACTED! TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE!
SNF SNF
NOTHING CAN INTERFERE WITH THIS HOLY WORK!

NO!
STAY AT YOUR DUTIES!
ROAAAAARRRR!
FOOL. YOU'D FORGOTTEN YOUR BEAST IS NOW MINE. WITH NO QUALMS ABOUT BITING YOU IN HALF.

NO.
WE'D COUNTED ON IT.
NO. CRUSH HIM!
REND HIS FLESH!

THIS REALLY BETTER WORK.
NEED TO TRUST ME, EDDIE.
I CAN BE A HERO. I CAN SAVE US ALL.
RAAAAAAAOOOOOO!
RRRRRR...
TOLD YOU, EDDIE.
WHAT'S HAPPENING? MY HOLD ON HIM IS BROKEN!

MY SYMBIOTE ATTACHES DIRECTLY AT THE BRAIN STEM.
YOUR TELEPATHY'S GOT NOTHING ON THAT.
NOT NOTHING, WARM-BLOOD.
I STILL HAVE MY PEOPLE. AND MY PEOPLE OBEY THEIR GOD!
NOTHING WILL STOP US FROM REMAKING THIS CITY! NOT EVEN YOU, DEVIL DINOSAUR!
PROTECT ME, MY CHILDREN!

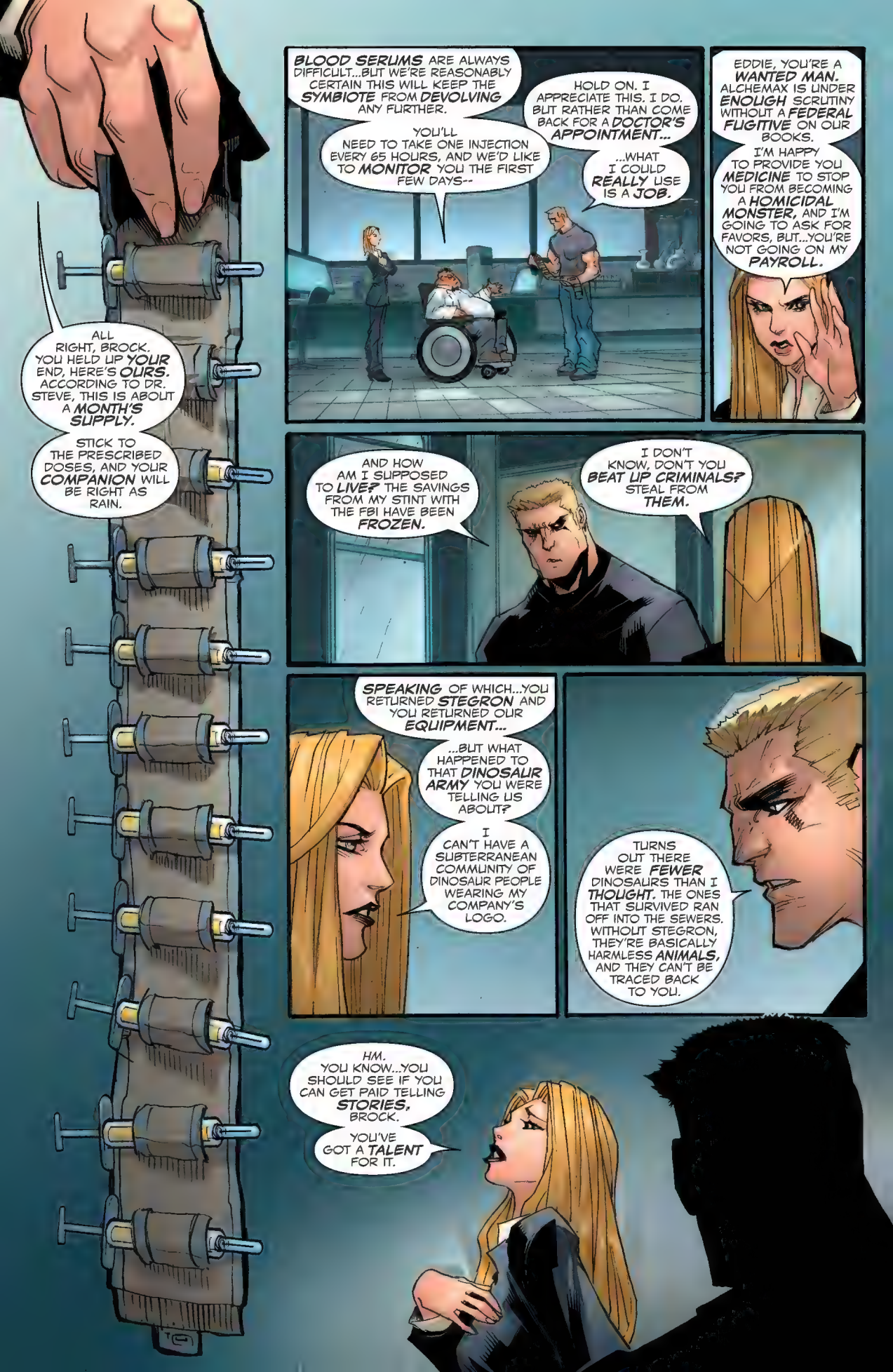
YOU'LL ONLY NEED TO KEEP HIM OCCUPIED FOR A FEW MOMENTS. THEN THE WORLD WILL BE OURS, AND HE CAN NEVER STAND AGAINST ALL OF US!
AN ENTIRE CITY, WAKING UP TO THEIR NEW LIVES AS MY SUBJECTS--
OH, HEY. YOU'RE A SCIENTIST, RIGHT?
I REALIZED THESE TANKS WERE HEATED, AND BASED ON YOUR SETTINGS, I DEDUCED YOUR ACTIVE INGREDIENTS AND CHANGED THE DIALS TO RENDER THEM INERT.
I ALSO DROPPED A SLOW-RELEASE POTASSIUM CAPSULE INTO EACH OF THEM.
YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SINGLE VALENCE ELECTRONS REACT WITH HYDROGEN IONS, RIGHT?

OW. TOO MUCH POTASSIUM...
YOU'VE STOLEN THE FUTURE FROM ME, VERMIN. HOW DARE YOU.
AND SO, YOUR FUTURE WILL BE AGONY.
TOUGH TO CONTROL DINOSAUR, EDDIE!
FOCUS! WE HAVE TO GO HELP THE GIRL!

TOO MANY, EDDIE!
GAH!
EDDIE!
ROAAAARRR!
KILL THEM!
KILL ALL OF THEM!
NO, CALM DOWN!
HE'S TOO FAR GONE! NEED TO PULL BACK, OFF THE DINOSAUR.
I KNEW THIS WAS A TERRIBLE IDEA.

FOREARMS TOO SHORT, HUH?
CLASSIC DINOSAUR PROBLEM.
YOU THINK YOU CAN HURT ME WITH THAT SIMPLE PRIMATE'S TOOL? OR PERHAPS YOU'RE CONSIDERING ESCAPING THROUGH THE WATER-WORKS AGAIN?
ACTUALLY... I WAS THINKING ABOUT YOU. YOU GOTTA WEIGH, WHAT? TWELVE, FIFTEEN HUNDRED POUNDS?
ALL SCALE AND HORN AND MUSCLE. YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR ME, MEAT.
YEAH...
...BUT I BET YOU CAN'T SWIM.

THAT WAS CLOSE. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WERE GONNA LET HIM DROWN!
WE SHOULD HAVE. HE COULD WAKE UP AT ANY MOMENT AND SEIZE CONTROL OF ALL OF HIS SUBJECTS AGAIN.
SO THEN YOU'LL KNOCK HIM OUT AGAIN.
PLUS, ALL THE DINO-PEOPLE ARE FREE NOW. THEY DON'T WANT HIM BACK.
SHE'S RIGHT. WE DON'T.
BUT...WHAT WILL YOU DO WITHOUT HIM?
SOME OF US VOLUNTEERED TO COME DOWN HERE WITH STEGRON, SO WE WILL HELP THOSE WHO DID NOT HAVE THE SAME SAY IN THEIR CHANGING TO ADJUST.
FORTUNATELY, WITH STEGRON GONE, WE ARE NO LONGER A DANGER TO ANYONE.
AND FOR THOSE WHO WANT ONE, WE WILL ENDEAVOR TO FIND A CURE.
'LEAST YOU'VE FOUND A NEW GOD TO WORSHIP IN DEVIL DINOSAUR HERE.
WHAT? NO. DEVIL STICKS WITH ME, AND NO WAY AM I LIVING IN SOME UNDERGROUND SEWER CITY. I HAVE SCHOOL.
BESIDES, LOOK AT THESE PEOPLE. THEY JUST WANT TO BE LEFT IN PEACE. THEY DON'T NEED A GOD. THEY JUST NEED A PROTECTOR.
A PROTECTOR? DO YOU MEAN US?
WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU GOT GOING ON?


ALL RIGHT, BROCK. YOU HELD UP YOUR END, HERE'S OURS. ACCORDING TO DR. STEVE, THIS IS ABOUT A MONTH'S SUPPLY.
STICK TO THE PRESCRIBED DOSES, AND YOUR COMPANION WILL BE RIGHT AS RAIN.
BLOOD SERUMS ARE ALWAYS DIFFICULT...BUT WE'RE REASONABLY CERTAIN THIS WILL KEEP THE SYMBIOTE FROM DEVOLVING ANY FURTHER.
YOU'LL NEED TO TAKE ONE INJECTION EVERY 65 HOURS, AND WE'D LIKE TO MONITOR YOU THE FIRST FEW DAYS--
HOLD ON. I APPRECIATE THIS. I DO. BUT RATHER THAN COME BACK FOR A DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT...
...WHAT I COULD REALLY USE IS A JOB.
EDDIE, YOU'RE A WANTED MAN. ALCHEMAX IS UNDER ENOUGH SCRUTINY WITHOUT A FEDERAL FUGITIVE ON OUR BOOKS.
I'M HAPPY TO PROVIDE YOU MEDICINE TO STOP YOU FROM BECOMING A HOMICIDAL MONSTER, AND I'M GOING TO ASK FOR FAVORS, BUT...YOU'RE NOT GOING ON MY PAYROLL.
AND HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO LIVE? THE SAVINGS FROM MY STINT WITH THE FBI HAVE BEEN FROZEN.
I DON'T KNOW, DON'T YOU BEAT UP CRIMINALS? STEAL FROM THEM.
SPEAKING OF WHICH...YOU RETURNED STEGRON AND YOU RETURNED OUR EQUIPMENT...
...BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT DINOSAUR ARMY YOU WERE TELLING US ABOUT?
I CAN'T HAVE A SUBTERRANEAN COMMUNITY OF DINOSAUR PEOPLE WEARING MY COMPANY'S LOGO.
TURNS OUT THERE WERE FEWER DINOSAURS THAN I THOUGHT. THE ONES THAT SURVIVED RAN OFF INTO THE SEWERS. WITHOUT STEGRON, THEY'RE BASICALLY HARMLESS ANIMALS, AND THEY CAN'T BE TRACED BACK TO YOU.
HM. YOU KNOW...YOU SHOULD SEE IF YOU CAN GET PAID TELLING STORIES, BROCK.
YOU'VE GOT A TALENT FOR IT.

WE DID IT, EDDIE!
DID WHAT? WHAT DID WE DO?
ENDED UP BROKE WITH A POPULATION OF UNDERGROUND DINOSAUR PEOPLE WAITING TO CAUSE US PROBLEMS LATER?
WE WERE HEROES, EDDIE!
HELPED LIZ ALLAN! GOT MEDICINE FOR IT! WORKED WITH OTHER HEROES AND PROTECTED PEOPLE!
A SCHOOLGIRL AND HER BARELY CONTROLLED DINOSAUR--
HEROES, EDDIE!
MORE GOOD THINGS WILL COME. LIZ CAN HELP. SHE'S SMART AND--
SKRULL INVASION GOVERNMENT HOAX
ACTUALLY...MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.
THINGS ARE LOOKING UP.
TO BE CONTINUED...

SYMBIWROTE

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HELLO, VENOMANIACS!

With that, we say goodbye to Stegron the Dinosaur Man and "THE LAND BEFORE CRIME."

Editor Devin Lewis reporting to you live and in print from the heart of the Marvel Universe in New York City! If you're anything like me, you're sad that Stegron and his dino-army won't be gracing the pages of this humble comics mag anymore, but don't worry, Marvelites! Stegron might be in prison, but the dinosaur community he built beneath the streets of Manhattan will live on...and probably cause a headache or two for Eddie Brock and Venom before they're through!

Big thanks, too, to MOON GIRL AND DEVIL DINOSAUR and the whole crew on that book for affording us the opportunity to have Lunella Lafayette join us for these past three issues! If you're a MOON GIRL reader who took the plunge into VENOM with this story, WELCOME! We hope you survived the experience and stick with us. And if you're a VENOM reader, go check out MOON GIRL–it's TERRIFIC!

ITEM: In case you've been living under a rock, it's been a BUSY summer for VENOM. Not only has he been defeating dinos left and right in this humble funny book, but the symbiote has also been bouncing around the Multiverse, in a five-chapter series we're calling EDGE OF VENOMVERSE!

The five EDGE OF VENOMVERSE issues are some of the craziest comics I've ever had the pleasure of working on. Each of them explores what might have happened if Venom had bonded with All-New Wolverine, Gwenpool, Ghost Rider, Old Man Logan and Deadpool. In developing each of those issues, we worked to make sure that it was clear that it was the VENOM symbiote each character bonded with, and that they bonded in a way unique to each character.

The first four issues should be on stands now, so if you haven't given them a shot, what're you waiting for? GO GET 'EM! And go back to your shop to get EDGE OF VENOMVERSE #5 in two weeks! It's got some CRAZY art by comics legend James Stokoe. You won't want to miss it!

Readers who keep on the pulse will also know that after the EDGE OF... issues are all released, September will bring the five-part VENOMVERSE story!

VENOMVERSE stars Eddie Brock/Venom of the Marvel Universe and the characters from Edge of Venomverse! It's on sale weekly, so be sure to go to your local comic book shop every Wednesday next month to get yours!

As much as I'd love to talk about VENOMVERSE, we're running outta space here, so let's get to the mailbag!

I'm absolutely loving the new direction for VENOM, and look forward to where the creative team takes Eddie/Venom. I will miss Flash/Venom, as that continues to be one of my favorite combinations of the character.

Question: It appears Peter knows Flash was Venom, but did Flash ever learn Peter's secret identity? That would be a fantastic story to tell, given Flash and Peter's history, if not in the pages of VENOM, then for Spider-Man's titles. Keep up the great work!

Lee R.

Good question, Lee! Peter does indeed know that Flash is Venom, as revealed in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (VOL 3.) #2 by Dan Slott and Humberto Ramos. Spidey even goes so far as to punch Captain America right square in the jaw over Flash's secret identity! It's a GREAT moment in a great issue and worth a read!

As for Flash–he does not know that Peter Parker is Spider-Man! You're not wrong, though! That would make for some intense drama...

Man,

You guys are great. Really excited about what is to come. Do you think we'll get an appearance from Scorn?

Check out my symbiote tat!

So, keep up the good work, and until Mickey Mouse is a writer at the House of Ideas, Make Mine Marvel!

Sincerely,
Corey M.

That's some pretty impressive ink, Corey! Even if Venom DOES have his trademark and despised-by-me tongue!

As for Scorn...MAN. I don't think we've seen her in ages. Whatever happened to those symbiote/mechanical prostheses, I wonder? Hm...

Just picked up the 150th anniversary issue of VENOM and, oh my. All of the

art was amazing, I loved the multiple-story angle. Just a tad bummed to see the symbiote flip out like that on the priest. Definitely going to leave Eddie in quite a situation. He was doing so well, too. Haha. But that cliffhanger admittedly has me eager for the next issue.

The Flash story was an unexpected treat, so I'm glad to finally have that gap covered.

The Lethal Protector short was simply amazing. I loved the art effect that made it look a bit older. If I didn't know better, I would have thought that story a reprint of an AMAZING SPIDER-MAN story that introduced the Lethal Protector I've grown to love so much.

The real treat for me came at the end–the cover collage was absolutely amazing.

But lastly I must say thank you. As I was reading your Symbiwrote column, I had the oddest feeling of deja vu, then I see my name and it clicks, you printed a letter I had written back in late January after picking up the first few issues from my local comic shop, and your story itself answered all my comments.

My absolute favorite fictional character is Eddie Brock's Venom, and the sudden realization that my fan letter asking about his role in your story was printed in the very column of the 150th issue spectacular celebrating his return almost seemed surreal, and for that, thank you. That 150th issue is a landmark all its own for Venom fans everywhere, and, because of you, it means just a little more to me.

Maurice S.
Hollister, CA

Thanks for your letters, Maurice! I remember getting your first one back in January, when we had only just started working on coming up with answers to the questions you asked in your letter. Glad you spotted it in VENOM #150, and glad you've been enjoying the story so far!

Hello Mr. Lewis,

I want to let you know that I'm really glad to see Eddie Brock back as Venom! Since comic books are a visual medium, I must say it's also a good thing to see the classic look in action again! It's the best one, the second being the Agent Venom design from the 2011 series.

I can't say that I'm a Tradd Moore fan per se, but I must congratulate you for reaching out to him because the story he illustrated was a total blast! It was also nice to see Ron Lim pencil the story written by David Michelinie. He's been doing a lot of variant covers, but I sure wish we could see his work more often in the books themselves. Maybe you could have him work on a VENOM annual?

Overall, this oversized 150th issue was well done, except for some editorial mistakes like the chronological errors in the cover gallery ("The Hunted" was published before "The Hunger" while "On Trial" came before "License to Kill" and both of them, along with the "Seed of Darkness" one-shot, were published before "The Finale") and the fact that it's actually issue number 156 when you count the "Sign of the Boss" and VENOM VS. CARNAGE miniseries. The symbiote won't be pleased if he finds out that you made those mistakes... as long as you keep Eddie in the suit, I won't tell. Until then, Make Mine Marvel!

Best regards,
Robert M.
Terrebonne, Québec

Thanks for your letter, Robert! And thanks for keeping us honest about the cover gallery. In truth, a couple of Venom issues might have indeed snuck by me–but that VENOM VS. CARNAGE miniseries featured Venom and Carnage as co-headliners, so I didn't count those issues in my overall tally. Missed yourself a chance at a no-prize there and with the rest, my friend! Maybe for #200?

Dear SymbiWrote team,

I've loved characters like Captain America, Nightcrawler and Wolverine, but Eddie Brock always stood out to me due to his revolving-door morality. The way he'd praise the Fantastic Four in one breath and curse Spidey in the other stuck with me for years.

I first encountered Venom by way of his talking ToyBiz action figure and spent hours telling my family theories on just what he could be. It wasn't till the '90s show that I learned the truth.

I've been there through the good and the bad of Eddie's history. Seeing his recent bouts of redemption as Anti-Venom and in Gerry Conway's CARNAGE have left me eager for more of this Eddie. Seeing the push for his return and teased details at C2E2 have me excited. I love seeing how complicated and nuanced Eddie is. I hope we don't see him just return to only hating Spidey without him wanting more out of life. (Also, if you permanently bring back Anne Weying as a supporting cast member, I'll send you $100 and my eternal thanks.)

I was dying to see her views on Eddie as Anti-Venom or "The Hero of Spider-Island"–there's tons of mileage for their turbulent interactions! Well, here's to the future!

Cheers symbiote faithful.
David D.

Another older letter here from David, but it brings up some good points! Eddie Brock's morality and his past are elements of his character that your VENOM braintrust has been taking VERY seriously. We're working overtime to make sure that each moment in this story feels authentic not only to our vision for the series' future, but also to Eddie's long past.

Before we can delve too much into his old relationships, though, we need to give him a chance to get himself established in New York.

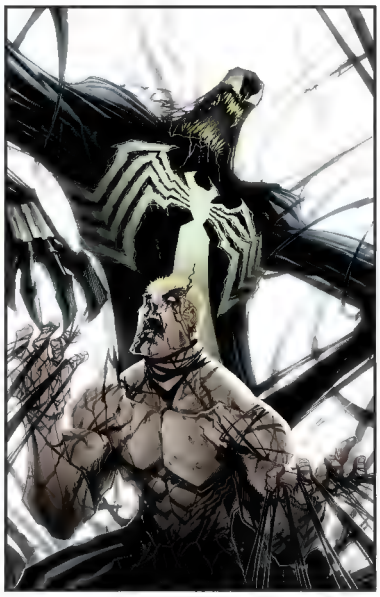
After all, he hasn't even had to *Protect* anyone *Lethally* yet...

That's all the space we've got for this one, folks! For your next dose of VENOM, be sure to check out EDGE OF VENOMVERSE #5 and VENOMVERSE #1 over the next few weeks, and be here IN ONE MONTH for VENOM #154, with special guest artist Paulo Siqueira as he illustrates a story told entirely from the perspective of the Venom symbiote–a first of its kind in the Mighty Marvel Manner! Don't miss it!

Stay sharp!

Devin

NEXT!



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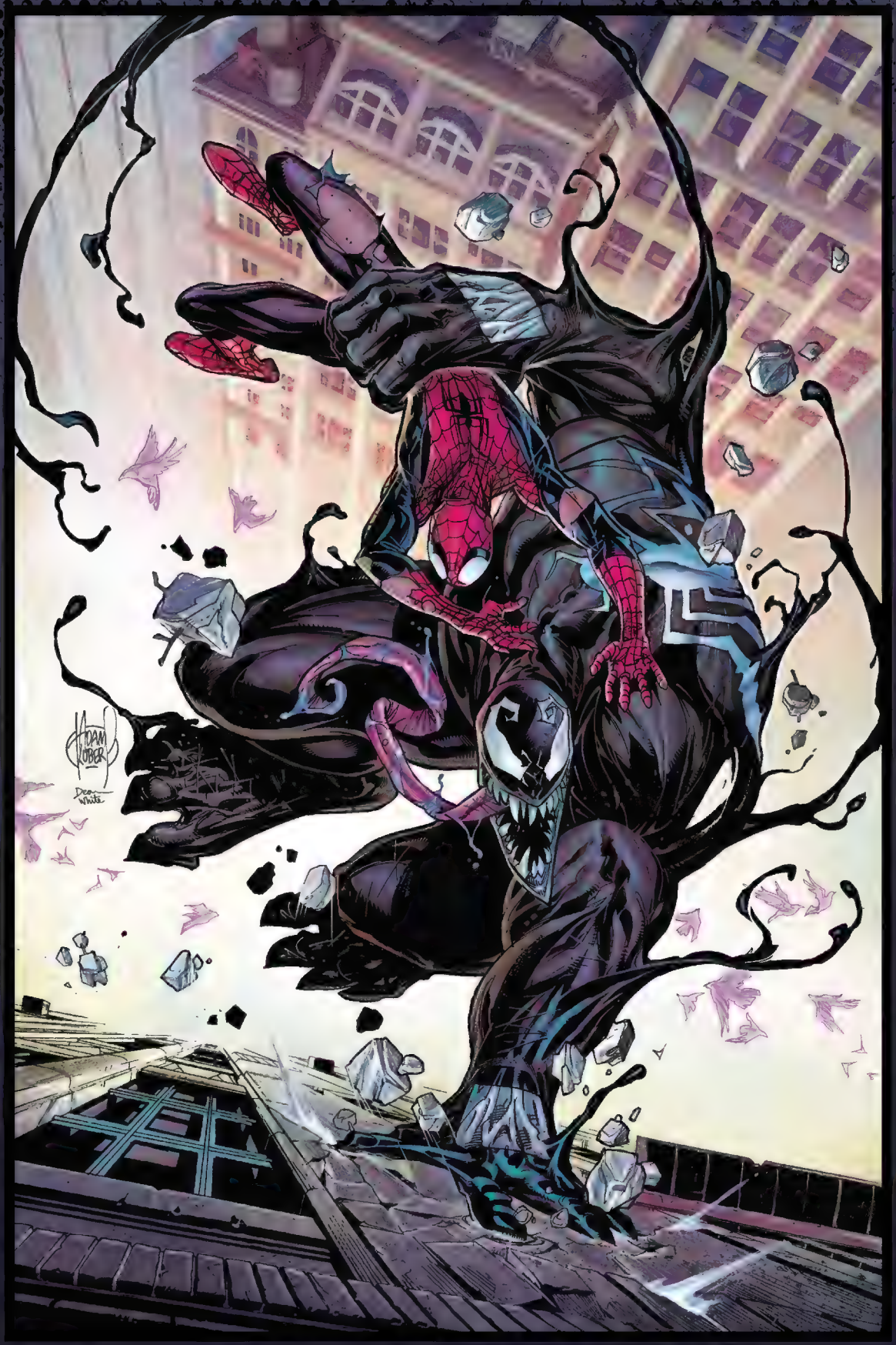

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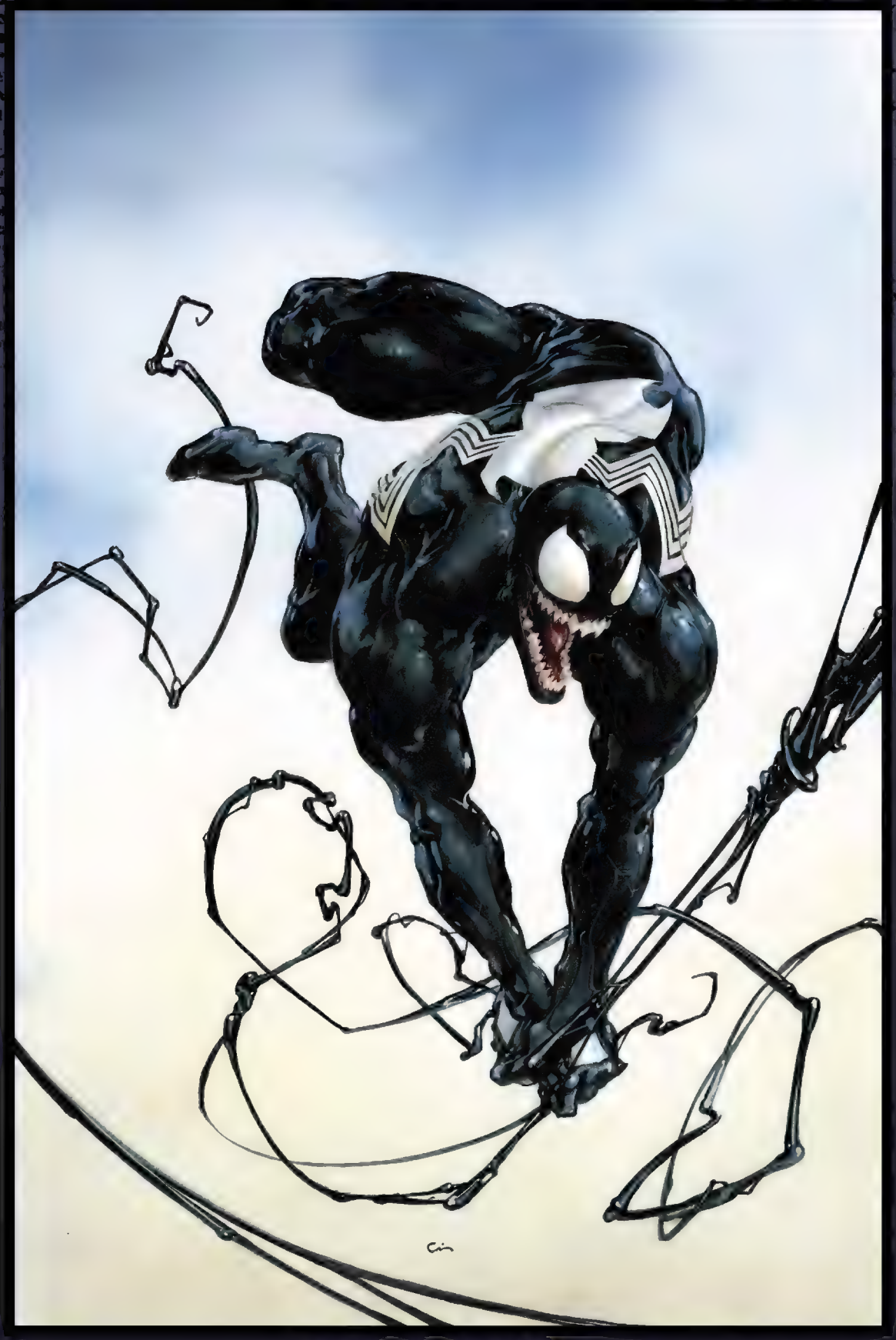

#150 VARIANT BY **CLAYTON CRAIN**

#150 VARIANT BY **CLAYTON CRAIN**

#150 VARIANT BY
MIKE DEL MUNDO

#150 VARIANT BY
SKOTTIE YOUNG

#150 REMASTERED VARIANT BY
MARK BAGLEY & RICHARD ISANOVE

#150 VARIANT BY
MIKE PERKINS & ANDY TROY

#151 MARY JANE VARIANT BY **FRANCESCO MATTINA**

REUNITED, AND IT FEELS SO GOOD! OR RATHER,

FEELS SO BAD!

EDDIE BROCK AND THE VENOM symbiote are together again, web-slinging their way around New York! But with questions still lingering about how the symbiote was separated from Flash Thompson, what lies in its future now that it's back where it belongs? Will Venom be the city's lethal protector – or revert to a sadistic, Spidey-hating villain? Find out as Eddie's next chapter begins – with a showdown with Stegron the Dinosaur Man! Are Eddie and Venom the ones to stop Stegron from turning everyone in Manhattan into bloodthirsty dinosaurs? Or is something not quite right with this revived relationship? As a monstrous melee begins, Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur drop by to help – but big red just might take Stegron's side.

COLLECTING ***VENOM (2016) #150-153*** – BY MIKE COSTA, ROBBIE THOMPSON, DAVID MICHELINIE, TRADD MOORE, GERARDO SANDOVAL, RON LIM, FELIPE SOBREIRO, DONO SÁNCHEZ-ALMARA AND AND LEE LOUGHRIDGE.

T+